

Gc  
977.601  
R24c  
v.1  
1198433

M.L.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION



ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01080 7474





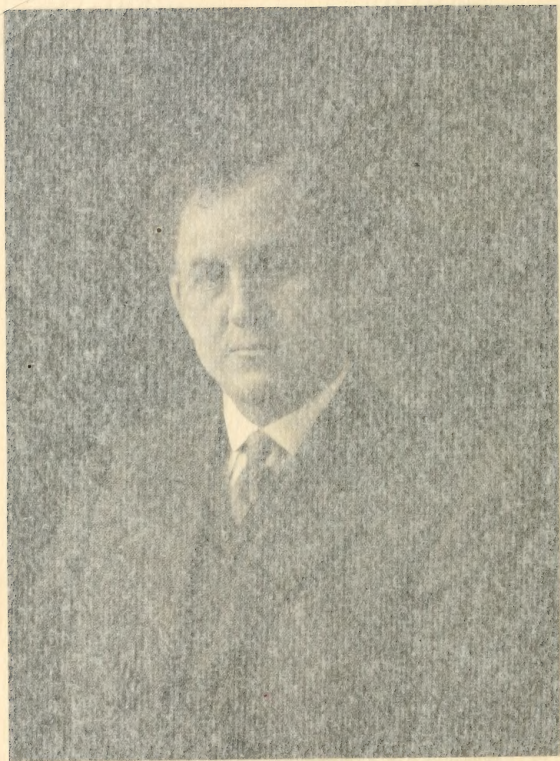








Julius A. Schuch



Julius A. Schuch

THE HISTORY  
OF  
REDWOOD COUNTY,  
MINNESOTA

COMPILED BY  
FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

Member of the Minnesota Historical Society, Member of the National Historical  
Society, Member of the Wisconsin Archaeological Society; Editor  
of the Histories of Goodhue, Dakato, Rice, Steele,  
Mower, Freeborn, Fillmore, Winona, Wright  
and Renville Counties, Minnesota.

REVIEWED BY  
JULIUS A. SCHMAHL  
Secretary of State

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME I

CHICAGO  
H. C. COOPER JR. & CO.

1916





## PREFACE

The aim of this work is to present in an available form, the facts which the average citizen should know about those events of the past which have been important in making the county what it is today. To the recital of these events have been added the biographies of present and former residents, that the reader may judge of the kind of men who have had their part in the life of the county, where they came from, under what conditions their youth was spent, what preparation they had for existence in this county, at what period of the county's progress they arrived here, and what they did toward its future progress. For the sake of future generations, these biographical sketches have also been made to include genealogical and family records.

The patrons of this history are almost exclusively the people of the county itself. It has, therefore, seemed wise to gather from various printed sources the story of the county before the arrival of the first settlers. In this way the reader will find in these two volumes, in accessible form, the material which otherwise could be made available in the average home only by the possession of a large library.

The census reports of the United States government are accessible to all, and it has not therefore seemed best to reprint from those reports extensive statistics regarding nationality and agriculture. The subjects, have, however, been treated in a general way, without reprinting the routine figures from the census reports.

County, village and township records, as well as various reports of state officials bearing on Redwood county have been searched with care. The Northwestern Gazetteer, published every two years, beginning with 1876, has also proven a valuable source of information. The newspaper files have also been closely examined. The source of the information contained in each chapter is given at the close of the chapters.

The records in Redwood county have been unusually well kept. But a handicap in the preparation of the history has been the neglect of many of the people of the county to respond to requests for information. In reply to more than 500 letters sent out requesting reminiscences from people who have lived in the county for more than thirty-five years, less than ten replies have been received. Hundreds of letters asking for information regarding churches, postoffices, early settlers, and official events have likewise remained unanswered.

Our representatives have, however, met with unfailing courtesy in their personal interviews with the people, and many thanks are due to all citizens of the county who, by their assistance, have helped to make the publication what it is.

The proof sheets of the historical part of the work have been read with care by Hon. Julius A. Schmahl, Secretary of State. Mr. Schmahl has also been frequently consulted during the progress of the work, and has made many valuable suggestions.

Our association with the people of the county has been a pleasant one. We have conscientiously performed our task, and in placing the history in the hands of those whom it most concerns, our hope is that it will increase the interest that all should feel in the history of the state and county.

H. C. COOPER, JR., & CO.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I

### GEOGRAPHICAL CONDITIONS

	PAGE
Location—Natural Drainage—Lakes—Surface—Soil—Natural Resources—Railroads—Trading Centers—Occupations—Population—Nationality—Townships—Original Surveys—Original Timber—Education.....	1

## CHAPTER II

### ERAS AND PERIODS

Geologic Era—Prehistoric Era—Period of Exploration—Agency Period—Massacre Period—Mission Period—Agricultural Era—Pioneer Period—Grasshopper Period—Period of Rapid Growth—Modern Period.....	7
--	---

## CHAPTER III

### PHYSICAL FEATURES

Topography—Soil—Timber—Geological Structure—Gneiss and Granite—Decomposed Gneiss and Granite—Cretaceous Beds—Lignite—Glacial and Modified Drift—Terminal Moraines—Modified Drift of the Last Glacial Epoch.....	10
---	----

## CHAPTER IV

### PREHISTORIC INHABITANTS

The First Men—Mound Builders—Purpose of the Mounds—Life and Habits of the Mound Builders—Location of the Mounds.....	26
--	----

## CHAPTER V

### INDIAN OCCUPANCY AND TREATIES

The Dakota Indians—Wapeton Dakotas—Indian Treaties—Visit to Washington—Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825—Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien—The Doty Treaty—Preliminaries to the Final Session—Treaty of Traverse des Sioux—The Ramsey Investigation of 1853—Treaty of 1858—Agencies and Forts.....	32
--	----



## CHAPTER VI

**CLAIM OF TITLE**

	PAGE
Redwood County Under the Domain of Spain, France and England—Redwood County as a Part of Louisiana District, Louisiana Territory, Missouri Territory, Michigan Territory, Iowa Territory and Wisconsin Territory—Minnesota Territory Created—Minnesota State.....	58

## CHAPTER VII

**EXPLORERS, TRADERS, MISSIONARIES**

Grosseilliers and Radisson—Hennepin and DuLuth—Le Sueur—Lahontan—Carver—Fort Snelling Established—Long, Keating, Beltrami—The Pembina Refugees—Featherstone and Mather—Catlin—Nicollet and Fremont—Allen—Fur Traders—The Missionaries—Chronology.....	70
---	----

## CHAPTER VIII

**THE LOWER SIOUX AGENCY**

The Agency Established—Efforts at Civilization—Administration of Affairs—Agriculture—Houses Erected for the Indians—Conditions Before the Outbreak.....	88
---	----

## CHAPTER IX

**CAUSES OF THE OUTBREAK**

Indians Defrauded by the Treaty—Stupidity and Injustice of the Officials—Dishonesty of the Traders—Indians in Piti-ful Condition—Indians Demand their Rightful Annuities—Refused—Soldiers Enforce Stipulations of Officials....	94
---	----

## CHAPTER X

**THE SIOUX OUTBREAK**

Murders at Acton—Aid of Little Crow Enlisted—Massacre Begins—Ruin Spreads on Both Sides of the Minnesota—Fort Ridgely—New Ulm—Pursuit and Punishment.....	118
---	-----

## CHAPTER XI

**THE MASSACRE IN REDWOOD COUNTY**

Agency Officials Alarmed at Manifestations of Trouble—First Shot Fired—Many Whites Murdered—Stories of Narrow Escapes—Events in the Southern Part of the County .....	135
---	-----

## CHAPTER XII

**REDWOOD FERRY AMBUSCADE**

PAGE

- News of Massacre Reaches Fort Ridgely—Captain Marsh Starts With His Men to Punish the Indians—Parley at the Ferry—Indians Open Fire—Many Soldiers Killed—Captain Marsh Drowned—Thrilling Escapes..... 142

## CHAPTER XIII

**MASSACRE EXPERIENCES**

- Experiences of Mrs. Mary E. Schwandt Schmidt—Experiences of George H. Spencer, Jr.—Experiences of John Ames Humphrey—Hinman's Flight—Experiences of Miss West—Fenske's Escape—Mrs. De Camp's Experience—Escape of the Reynolds Family..... 149

## CHAPTER XIV

**MONUMENTS AND MARKERS**

- Colonel Henry H. Sibley Establishes His Rendezvous Near Present Site of North Redwood, and Starts on His Expedition Against the Indians—Historic Sites in Redwood County Marked by Permanent Memorials—Work of the Minnesota Valley Historical Society..... 164

## CHAPTER XV

**COUNTY ORGANIZATION**

- Original Counties—Wabashaw—Dakotah—Blue Earth—Renville—Redwood—McPhail—Lyon, Lincoln, Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle Cut Off..... 168

## CHAPTER XVI

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THEIR MEETINGS**

- Work of the County Board Since 1865—Affairs of the County Admirably Managed Through Many Trying Periods—Financial Matters—Salaries of Officials—Roads, Bridges and Ditches..... 175

## CHAPTER XVII

**COUNTY OFFICERS AND BUILDINGS**

- Lists of County Officers—County Court House—Alms House and Poor Farm—County Jail..... 191

## CHAPTER XVIII

**LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION**

	PAGE
Districts Established—List of the Men Who Have Represented Redwood County at St. Paul—Constitutional Convention —Dates of the Legislative Sessions—Congressional Repre- sentation .....	195

## CHAPTER XIX

**RIVER TRANSPORTATION**

Story of the Minnesota River—Steamboat Traffic—River Shrinks and Traffic is Suspended.....	208
---	-----

## CHAPTER XX

**HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES**

Government Roads—Early County Roads—Early Bridges— State Roads—Development of Present System.....	219
--	-----

## CHAPTER XXI

**RAILROADS**

Story of the Building of the Various Lines Which Now Cross Redwood County .....	232
--	-----

## CHAPTER XXII

**EDUCATION**

Growth of the System in Redwood County as Shown by the Official Reports—Story of the Individual Districts— Present Status—Future Prospects—Biographies of Super- intendents .....	235
--	-----

## CHAPTER XXIII

**LIVE STOCK**

Statistics of Live Stock in Redwood County at Various Periods as Shown by the Assessment Rolls.....	265
--	-----

## CHAPTER XXIV

**DITCHING**

PAGE

Need of Artificial Drainage in Redwood County—Ditching Inaugurated—Location and Style of the Present Ditches— Plans for the Future.....	274
---	-----

## CHAPTER XXV

**PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS**

Ideals of the Profession—Pioneer Physicians in Redwood County—Names of Redwood County Physicians from the Various Issues of the Gazetteer—Records of Physicians Registered at the Court House.....	283
---	-----

## CHAPTER XXVI

**NEWSPAPERS OF REDWOOD COUNTY**

The First Newspaper—Col. McPhail and the Patriot—Red- wood Falls Mail—Redwood Gazette—Lamberton Commer- cial—Lamberton Leader—Lamberton Star—Redwood Re- veille—Redwood Falls Sun—Morgan Messenger—Walnut Grove Tribune—Sanborn Sentinel—Belview Independent —Revere Record—Wabasso Standard—Vesta Bright Eyes—Vesta Censor—Milroy Echo—Wanda Pioneer Press —Seaforth Item—Other Papers .....	294
--	-----

## CHAPTER XXVII

**REDWOOD COUNTY TOWNSHIPS**

Growth in Population—Swedes Forest—Kintire—Delhi—Hon- ner—Underwood — Vesta — Sheridan — Redwood Falls— Paxton—Sherman—Westline—Granite Rock—Vail—New Avon—Three Lakes—Morgan—Gales—Johnsonville—Wa- terbury—Willow Lake—Sundown—Brookville—Spring- dale—North Hero—Lamberton—Charlestown.....	315
---	-----

## CHAPTER XXVIII

**REDWOOD COUNTY CHURCHES**

Distribution of Nationalities and Its Effect on the Establish- ment of Churches—Influence of the Churches on the Set- tlement of the County—Lists of the Churches of the County—Story of a Few Typical Churches Briefly Told..	365
---	-----



## CHAPTER XXIX

**BUTTER AND CHEESE MAKING**

	PAGE
Slow Growth of Dairying in Redwood County—Butter Made in the Homes—Statistics—Establishment of Creameries—Present Status.....	396

## CHAPTER XXX

**AGRICULTURE OF TODAY**

Agricultural Conditions—Soil Survey—Modern Methods—Climatic Conditions—Rotation of Crops—Alfalfa—Livestock—Dairying—Work of the County Agent—Latest Developments—Wild and Tame Grasses—Farm Names—County Fairs .....	401
--	-----

## CHAPTER XXXI

**THE BISHOP WHIPPLE MISSION**

Mission Established at The Agency Before the Massacre—Work of Bishop Whipple—The Massacre—Indians Return—Modern Mission Established—Lace Making—Biographies .....	421
---	-----

## CHAPTER XXXII

**MATERIAL RESOURCES**

Springs—Mineral Paint—Water Power—Clay Products—Gold—Gravel—Wells—Surface Wells—Cretaceous Wells—Archaen Wells—Public Water Supplies—Farm Water Supplies .....	432
--	-----

## CHAPTER XXXIII

**PIONEER EXPERIENCES**

McPhail, His Life, Times and Cabin—The Frederick Holt Family—Marion Johnson's Experiences—James Aitken's Reminiscences—John Mooer Killed—E. G. Pomroy's Reminiscences—J. S. Johnson's Experiences—Early Days Near Walnut Grove—Mrs. Roset A. Schmahl—The Days that Tried Men's Souls.....	442
---	-----

CHAPTER XXXIV

**COURTS, CASES AND ATTORNEYS**

PAGE

Territorial Courts—District Courts in Redwood County— Judges—First Cases—The Bar—Murders—Civil Cases— —Justice Courts—Municipal Court—Probate Courts— Appealed Cases.....	465
--	-----

CHAPTER XXXV

**REDWOOD COUNTY VILLAGES**

Population—Redwood Falls—Belview — Clements — Delhi — Gilfillan—Lamberton—Lucan—Morgan—North Redwood —Revere—Rowena—Sanborn — Seaforth — Vesta — Wa- basso—Wayburne—Walnut Grove—Wanda—Abandoned Villages .....	489
---	-----

CHAPTER XXXVI

**OLD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION**

Early Settlers of the Southeastern Part of the County Form Society—Interesting Meetings—List of Officers—Roll of Members, Giving Place of Birth and Date of Arrival in This County .....	560
---	-----

CHAPTER XXXVII

**THE REDWOOD HOLSTEIN FARM**

Rise in Land Values and Change in Redwood County Agricul- ture Encouraged by the Sears-Gold Activities—The Fa- mous Holstein Herd Established—Methods and Results..	563
---	-----

CHAPTER XXXVIII

**DIFFICULTIES OVERCOME**

Large Tracts of Land Not Open to Settlement—Rush to the Dakotas—The Grasshopper Years—Blizzards and Storms —Prairie Fires .....	566
---	-----

CHAPTER XXXIX

**BANKS AND BANKING**

Beginning of Banking in Redwood County—The Present Banks—Organization — Growth — Officials — Financial Statements .....	570
---	-----

## CHAPTER XL

**POSTAL SERVICE**

	PAGE
Early Stage Routes—Early Postal Service—The Story of the Present Offices—Postmasters and Locations—Discontinued Offices .....	584

## CHAPTER XLI

**THE PIONEER PERIOD**

McPhail Settles at Redwood Falls—Story of the Stockade—Names of First Land Owners—Names of Early Tax Payers—Type of Settlers—Early Homes—Nationality—Early Population—Land Office Opened—First Land Sale.	596
---	-----

## XLII

**REDWOOD FALLS PARKS**

Natural Conditions—Lake Redwood Park—Redwood Falls Park—Alexander Ramsey State Park—Easy Access to Parks—Indian Legend of the Origin of the Name.....	608
---	-----

## CHAPTER XLIII

**MERCANTILE AND CIVIC IMPROVEMENT**

Early Business Houses—Growth of the Mercantile Interests—Shifting of the Business Center—Redwood Falls in 1880—Redwood Falls Today.....	614
---	-----

## CHAPTER XLIV

**REDWOOD FALLS CEMETERY**

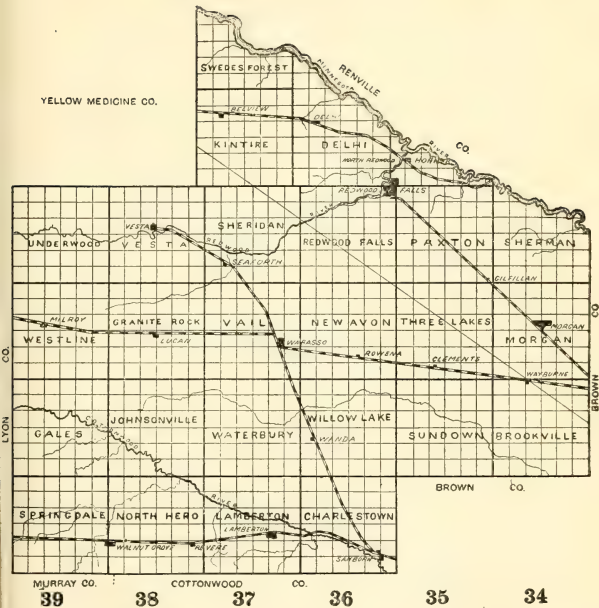
Early Burial Places—First Deaths—Present Cemetery Started—Ladies Take Charge—Splendid Work of the Redwood Falls Cemetery Association.....	619
---	-----

## CHAPTER XLV

**MILITARY COMPANY**

Militia Organized—Armory Erected—Officers—Call to Mexican Service—Embark for the Border—Now in Texas—Roster of the Company.....	622
---	-----

YELLOW MEDICINE CO.





## CHAPTER I.

### GEOGRAPHICAL CONDITIONS.

Redwood county is situated in the southwestern part of Minnesota, within the basin of the Minnesota river which is its boundary on the northeast. Two tier of counties (forty-eight miles) intervene between it and the Iowa line, due south, and two tier of counties (forty-two miles) intervene between it and the South Dakota line, due west.

The lines of the Congressional survey which bound Redwood county are as follows: Beginning at a point on the Minnesota where that river is crossed by the range line between ranges 33 and 34, following that range line, to the township line between townships 109 and 110; thence running west on said township line to the range line between ranges 35 and 36; thence south on said range line to the township line between townships 108 and 109; thence west on said township line to the range line between sections 39 and 40; thence north on said range line to the township line (the Third Standard Parallel) between townships 112 and 113; thence east on said township line to the range line between ranges 37 and 38; thence north on said range line to the Minnesota river. The boundary is completed by the diagonal course of the Minnesota river.

The counties surrounding Redwood do not differ materially from it in general physical conditions. Across the Minnesota to the northward is Renville county. To the east and south lies Brown county. Cottonwood county is to the south as is also a part of Murray county. Westward lies Lyon county. Yellow Medicine county lies to the north and west.

The area of Redwood county is about 893.83 square miles or 572,052.87 acres. Of this some 14,930.13 acres are covered with water.

**Natural Drainage.** The Minnesota river, at the north side, in this region, receives two large tributaries: the Redwood (called by the Sioux the Tchanshaypi) river, which flows east across the north part of Redwood county and enters the Minnesota about two miles northeast of Redwood Falls; and the Cottonwood (called by the Sioux the Waraju) river, which also runs easterly, crossing southern Redwood county, and dividing Brown county into nearly equal parts on its north and south sides, uniting with the Minnesota about one and a half miles southeast of New Ulm. While commonly called the Cottonwood and thus

designated in this book, it is also sometimes called the Big Cottonwood, to distinguish it from the Little Cottonwood, which rises in Jackson county, flows through Brown county, and joins the Minnesota in the northwest corner of Blue Earth county.

The Minnesota river receives from Redwood county several small creeks, from one to five miles in length, the longest being Crow Creek, five miles east of Redwood Falls, and Wabashaw creek, in Sherman, the most northeast township of Redwood county.

The most important of the small creeks that empty into the Redwood river in the county of this name is Ramsey creek, five miles long, in the south part of Delhi, the outlet of Ramsey lake. Its junction with the Redwood is about a half mile north of Redwood Falls.

Numerous creeks of considerable size join the Cottonwood river from the south in southern Redwood county, including Plum creek, which flows by Walnut Grove; Pell creek, in the west part of Lamberton; Dutch Charley's creek, which flows within a mile south of Lamberton, after receiving Highwater creek, a large tributary, unites with the Cottonwood about two miles east of this station; and Dry creek, which joins this river in the southeast corner of Charlestown. Through this distance of twenty-five miles, the Cottonwood river has no affluent from the north. Sleepy Eye creek, the largest branch of the Cottonwood, joins it from the north, but not in this county. It flows through the south central part of Redwood county, and unites with the Cottonwood in the eastern part of Leavenworth township in Brown county.

**Lakes.** Redwood county has frequent small bodies of water, and also sloughs, or marshy tracts, many of which are covered by water during the wet portions of the year. In Redwood county the most notable lakes are Ramsey lake, one mile long from east to west, in Delhi; Goose and Swan lakes, at the northwest side of Underwood township, each about a mile long; two lakes, three-quarters and a half a mile in length, in Kintire; Horseshoe lake, curved, more than a mile long, in Westline; Hall lake, a mile in length from northwest to southeast, in Gales; Willow and Rush lakes, each a half mile or more in length, in Willow Lake township; the Three Lakes, which give this name to the township in which they are situated; and Hackberry lake, three-fourths of a mile long, in the north part of Brookville. Lake Redwood at Redwood Falls is an artificial lake, the water being held back by a dam.

**Surface.** Most of Redwood county consists of a plain that rises imperceptibly southwestward. This plain is intermediate in altitude between the valley of the Minnesota river, on the northeast, and the Coteau des Prairies on the southwest. With

reference to the Minnesota valley, which is 150 to 200 feet deep, it constitutes a plateau, but in relation to the Coteau which lies 500 feet higher, it is a lowland tract. The ascent to the Coteau begins in the southwestern extremity of the county, where the upward grade is greatly augmented.

The county has almost universally a smooth, gently or moderately undulating surface of unmodified glacial drift or till. Some portions are nearly flat, and the whole county has this appearance when overlooked in any broad, far-reaching view; but mostly the contour is in broad swells of various extent, height and direction, generally without any uniformity in trend and sometimes oval or nearly round. Between these swells and in many low places are swamps and set lands. This condition is however being eliminated by tiling and ditching.

The Minnesota river flows through a valley from a few rods to a mile and a half in width, rising somewhat abruptly to the rich swelling country some 150 to 200 feet higher. In the valley are many farms admirably adapted to stock raising. The bluffs between the lowland and the general level of the county are for the most part heavily wooded.

Redwood and Cottonwood rivers, flowing eastward across the county, occupy rather shallow valleys until they approach the Minnesota, into which they discharge, they descend into deep and picturesque gorges. This is especially true of the Redwood river which cascades over granite ledges at Redwood Falls. Until the principal streams have cut their valleys down to accord with the Minnesota river, most of the county will have insufficient natural relief for an adequate drainage, though this deficiency as already noted is being supplied by an elaborate system of ditching and tiling. Near the southwestern part of the county, however, where the descent from the Coteau is relatively steep, many ravines have been cut, some of which extend down to the ground-water level and have permanent streams fed by springs. That is why so many of the affluents of the Cottonwood river come from the south.

**Soil.** The soil is a rich black loam, from two to four feet deep, with a clay subsoil. The only light soil is on the tops of the bluffs. The soil is most admirably adapted to the production of all the common cereals, garden vegetables and small fruits of this latitude.

**Natural Resources.** Redwood county being an agricultural county its greatest resources consist of its soil, climate and drainage. It has some natural timber, but the timber for the most part has been planted and cultivated. There is a plentiful water supply in wells and springs, and many excellent waterpowers. The clay of the county in times past has been utilized for brick. The gravel of the county is used for roads and for cement tiles



and bricks. Mineral paint has also been produced, and quarrying is conducted to a minor extent. Boulders are used for foundations and fences. Coal explorations have produced little results. The soil, location, climate, contour, drainage, water supply, and waterpowers are the only natural features which have exerted any important economic influence on the development of the county. For a time a gold mine was exploited and an extensive plant erected but without producing gold in paying quantities. "Soapstone" has also been secured near Redwood Falls.

**Railroads.** Railroad service is provided Redwood by one division of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Co. and by four divisions of the Chicago & North Western Railway Co. The Watertown division of the Minneapolis & St. Louis was built across the northern part of the county in 1884. The Winona-Tracy branch of the Winona & St. Peter, now a part of the North Western system, was built through the southern part of the county in 1872. The Sleepy Eye-Redwood Falls division was built to Redwood Falls in 1878. The Sanborn-Vesta division was built between those points in 1899. The Evan-Marshall branch was built through the central part of the county in 1902.

**Trading Centers.** The majority of the people of Redwood county do their trading within the limits of the county. Springfield, Tracy, Morton, Cottonwood, Echo, Marshall and possibly Wood Lake are trading points for people in this county. Lamberton and Sanborn get quite a little trade from outside the county, and some from outside the county also comes to Walnut Grove, Revere, Morgan, Milroy, Vesta, Belview, Delhi and North Redwood. Redwood Falls also receives a considerable portion of its trade from the people of Renville county. The catalogue houses do a good business in this county, but somewhat less than is usual in the average Minnesota rural community. Especially in the Redwood Falls vicinity, the excellent service and numerous sales given by the stores keeps the business at home. The important trading centers within the county are Redwood Falls, Lamberton, Morgan, Walnut Grove, Revere, Sanborn, Wanda, Wabasso, Lucan, Milroy, Seaforth, Vesta, Clements, Belview, Delhi and North Redwood. Shipping facilities are also provided at Rowena, Wayburne and Gilfillan.

**Occupations.** The county is entirely an agricultural one. Aside from a small quarry and a few marble dressing establishments, and a few cement block plants, the people are all engaged in tilling the land and raising stock, except in the villages, and in the villages the people are dependent entirely on the rural population for support.

**Population.** The population of Redwood county in 1900, was 18,425. In 1870, it was 1,829, but this is not a basis of compari-

son, as the county then extended to the state line. In 1875 the population was 2,982; in 1880 it was 5,375; in 1885 it was 6,488; in 1890 it was 9,386; in 1895 it was 13,533; in 1900 it was 17,261; in 1905 it was 19,034, and in 1910 it decreased to 18,425.

**Nationality.** The German nationality predominates, with the Danish and the Norwegians as the next in numbers. The latest official returns are for 1910. There are eleven negroes, of whom five are black and six mulatto. There are 167 Indians. There are 5,361 native whites of native parentage. There are 9,428 of foreign and mixed parentage, of whom 5,981 are of foreign parentage and 3,448 of mixed parentage. The foreign born whites number 3,457, or nearly nineteen per cent of the total population. The foreign born whites are divided as follows. Germany, 1,527; Denmark, 458; Norway, 449; Sweden, 268; Austria, 247; Canada (not French, mostly Scotch), 184; England, 85; Ireland, 62; Switzerland, 59; Scotland, 57; Russia, 21; Belgium, 13; Canada (French), 7; Holland, 2; other foreign countries, 14. The native whites with both parents born in the respective countries mentioned are: Germany, 3,029; Norway, 694; Denmark, 577; Austria, 363; Sweden, 307; Ireland, 178; Canada (not French), 118; England, 72; Scotland, 63; Switzerland, 62; Canada (French), 20; Russia, 14; France, 9; Wales, 7; Holland, 1; Hungary, 1; all others of foreign parentage (both parents born in countries other than above, and parents of foreign birth but of different countries), 466.

**Townships.** The townships of Redwood county are: Swedes Forest township 114, range 37 (fractional); Kintire, 113, 37; Delhi, 113, 36 (fractional, and 114, 36 fractional); Honner, 113, 35 (fractional), 113, 34 (fractional); Underwood, 112, 39; Vesta, 112, 38; Sheridan, 112, 37; Redwood Falls, 112, 36; Paxton, 112, 35; Sherman, 112, 34 (fractional); Westline, 111, 39; Granite Rock, 111, 38; Vail, 111, 37; New Avon, 111, 36; Three Lakes, 111, 35; Morgan, 111, 34; Gales, 110, 39; Johnsonville, 110, 38; Waterbury, 110, 37; Willow Lake, 110, 36; Sundown, 110, 35; Brookville, 110, 34; Springdale, 109, 39; North Hero, 109, 38; Lamberton, 109, 37; Charlestown, 109, 36.

**Original Surveys.** Brookville, Morgan, Sherman, Sundown, Three Lakes, Paxton, Honner, Charlestown, Willow Lake, New Avon, Redwood Falls and Delhi were surveyed by government officials in 1858. North Hero, Johnsonville, Vesta, Granite Rock, Lamberton, Waterbury and Vail were surveyed in 1859. Sheridan and Kintire were surveyed in 1864. Swedes Forest was surveyed in 1866. Springdale, Gales, Westline and Underwood were surveyed in 1867.

**Original Timber.** With the elimination of the prairie fires, the river courses have become quite heavily wooded, while groves have been planted on nearly every quarter section. Originally

the valley of the Minnesota was timbered, as well as the valleys of the Minnesota and the Cottonwood. These trees on the Redwood and Cottonwood gradually diminished as their sources were approached. The survey of 1858 found Charlestown plentifully supplied with timber, but further up the Cottonwood there were only isolated groups of trees with the exception of the walnut grove in Springdale.

**Education.** The number of school houses in use in Redwood county in 1915 and 1916 was 116, with 110 districts. There are four consolidated schools, in the villages of Wanda, Lamberton, Redwood Falls, Walnut Grove. Delhi has voted to be a consolidated school after Sept., 1917. School districts No. 91 and No. 41 consolidated with No. 31, now known as consolidated district No. 31 in the village of Lamberton; school district No. 93 consolidated with No. 30, now known as consolidated district No. 30 in the village of Wanda. There are seven state graded schools, and two state high schools, the latter in Redwood Falls and Lamberton. The state graded schools are in Belview, Wabasso, Morgan, Sanborn, Walnut Grove, Delhi, and Wanda. School districts No. 109 in Morgan township, and No. 64 in Waterbury township, receive no state aid. Of the graded schools all except Wabasso, Delhi and Wanda do four years of high school work; Wanda and Wabasso do two years of high school work. The Lamberton and Redwood Falls schools have several special departments, including manual training, domestic art, domestic science, agricultural and commercial work. Walnut Grove, Wanda, Morgan and Belview do manual training work. Walnut Grove and Morgan do domestic science and agriculture. There were enrolled in the graded and high schools for 1915 and 1916, 2,313 pupils. There are 13 semi-graded schools in the county which means schools employing from 2 to 4 teachers. These are located in Clements, Revere, Milroy, Vesta, Seaforth, Lucan, district No. 7, New Avon township; district No. 19, North Hero township; district No. 27, Sundown township; district No. 49, Brookville township; district No. 67, Willow Lake township; district No. 70, Sheridan township, and district No. 78, Waterbury township. District No. 73, known as the Gilfillan school, will be a semi-graded school after Sept., 1917. There are 80 class A, one room rural schools and 10 class B one room rural schools. Four districts have seven months of school; none have less; all the rest have either eight or nine months. In the rural and semi-graded schools there were for 1915-1916, 3,239 pupils enrolled, making a total enrollment for that year of 5,552 pupils in the schools of the county. One hundred ninety-eight teachers were employed. The average wages for all the schools in the county, paid for men teachers was \$88.75; for women, \$60.09. The average number of days each pupil attended was 126.9.

All districts loan the text books free. We find improved heating and ventilating systems in every school building, except two. The highest price paid for rural school teachers in 1916 was \$70 (in four schools), and the lowest price paid was \$45 (in one school); the rest ranging from \$50 to \$65. There were 76 teachers, rural and semi-graded, in 1916, who were graduates of the Normal training department in high schools; there were seven State Normal school graduates of the advanced course, and one college graduate.

**References.** Vol. I, "The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota," 1872-1882.

Reports of the State and Federal Census, 1870-1910.

"Atlas of Redwood County," Webb Publishing Co., St. Paul, 1914.

## CHAPTER II.

### ERAS AND PERIODS.

For purposes of consistent study, the story of Redwood county has been divided into eras and periods.

**I—Geologic Eras.** During these Eras the world was made fit for human habitation. The study of this subject lies in the realm of the trained geologist, and will not be considered at length in this work. For the purposes of this history, however, it is necessary to study the effect that the physical conditions have had on the occupation of this region by man, the changes that mankind has wrought in the physical conditions of the county and the influence that the physical conditions of the county have had upon mankind. It must be borne in mind that the Geologic Eras have not passed, and that mankind is merely living in the latest, not the last of these Eras.

**II—Prehistoric Era.** During the Prehistoric Era, mankind in some form took up his habitation in Redwood county. Possibly this occupation took place in Interglacial times. There have been discovered no evidences of Interglacial man in Redwood county. The only pre-historic evidences left in the county are the mounds constructed by the Mound Builders, so-called. These Mound Builders are believed to have been the ancestors of the present day Indians, and differing from them in no important aspects.

**III—Indian Era.** The Indian Era is divided into four periods: (a) The Period of the Explorers; (b) The Period of the Agency; (c) The Period of the Massacre; (d) The Post-Massacre and Mission Period.

The Period of the Explorers. The testimony as to what

Indians were living in Redwood county when the white explorers came to this region is somewhat vague, and the subject worthy of extended study far beyond the limits of this publication. In 1834, Pond describes the Minnesota river above Shakopee as Wapeton country. However, the Sissetons and Yanktons were not far to the westward, and the Sisseton country was not far to the southward, while Sleepy Eye's band of the Sissetons, appear, for a time at least, to have ranged the region of the Cottonwood, and even to have located at the mouth of the Little Rock, in Nicollet county. Le Sueur, in 1700, reached the present site of Mankato. Carver, in 1766 camped not far from the present site of New Ulm, and possibly visited Redwood county. Following him came a long list of explorers, trappers, fur traders, and missionaries. This period closed with the signing of the Indian treaties of 1851. During the period of the explorers the national and territorial sovereignty of Redwood county underwent many changes.

The Period of the Agency. In 1853, Ft. Ridgely was started, and in 1854 the Lower Sioux Agency, in what is now Sherman township, Redwood county was established. The various Sioux Indian tribes designated as the "Lower Tribes," settled about the Agency. There they lived in more or less discontent until the massacre. Many became reconciled, in a degree, to the ways of the white men, moved into log or brick houses erected by the government, and started farming under the supervision of the government farmers. The establishment of the Agency had an important economic influence on the future of Redwood county; it kept the county from being settled before the massacre; it caused a sawmill to be built in 1855 at Redwood Falls, which was restored by the settlers in 1865 and used to finish lumber for many of the pioneer homes; it caused the military road to be built from Ft. Ridgely, via the Lower Agency to the Upper Agency, thus providing a route of travel for the pioneers who came after the massacre; it caused a considerable acreage of land to be broken, thus providing many of the pioneers after the massacre with wheat fields the first year they came, and it provided many of the pioneers, after the massacre, with homes of brick and logs which the Indians had abandoned. Then too, the setting aside of the land as an Indian reservation kept it from entry by the pioneers under the homestead law, even after the Indians had departed. It was placed on sale at an appraised price in 1867, fell into the hands of speculators, and greatly retarded the growth of the county. In Redwood county this reservation embraced a strip ten miles wide, following the course of the Minnesota.

The Period of the Massacre. The Sioux Indians, suffering under the memory of many wrongs, arose on Aug. 18, 1862,

slaughtered the whites at the Lower Agency, and spread their devastation up and down the Minnesota. During the campaign which followed, military headquarters for the punitive expedition was established at Camp Pope, not far from the present village of North Redwood. For the next two years, Redwood county was deserted, except for the soldiers, scouts and trappers.

**Period of the Mission.** The Mission period overlaps the Agricultural Era. In Paxton township, just above the hill from Morton, is a group of buildings, consisting of an Indian church and school, and here, in the center of a small Indian community, the descendants of the "Friendly Indians" of the massacre days, are given educational, religious and vocational instruction.

**IV—The Agricultural Era.** The Agricultural Era marks the time from 1864 to the present day, the era of white occupancy. This era may be divided into four periods: (a) The Pioneer Period, 1864-1872; (b) The Grasshopper Period, 1873-1877; (c) The Period of Rapid Growth, 1878-1905; and (d) The Modern Period, 1906-1916.

**The Pioneer Period.** Col. Sam. McPhail, an Indian fighter, erected a stockade at Redwood Falls in 1864, and attracted by the waterpower, fixed upon that location as the site of a village. A few families lived in the stockade that winter, and one family lived on the shores of Tiger lake. With the spring of 1865 settlers began to spread out along the Redwood and up and down the Minnesota. Not long afterward a settlement was made in the walnut grove, not far from the present village of that name, and along Dutch Charley creek in Lamberton and Charles-town. Gradually the settlers scattered southward on the prairie from Redwood Falls. However, the reservation was not subject to homestead entry, and vast tracts in the central part of the county were railroad, school and internal improvement lands, and were likewise not subject to entry. Thus the settlements of the county formed a shell, with unoccupied land in the center for many years. Times, however, with the exception of the year 1867, when the long cold winter, and the wet late spring caused much suffering, were prosperous until 1873. The Pioneer Period may therefore be considered as extending from 1864 to 1872. In 1872 the railroad was built through the southern part of the county.

**The Grasshopper Period.** In 1873 the crops were ravaged by the grasshoppers who continued their devastations until 1877. Redwood Falls was incorporated during this period, and stores established at Lamberton and Walnut Grove.

**The Period of Rapid Growth.** In 1878 the railroad came to Redwood Falls, and in 1884 one was built through the northern part of the county. Gradually farmers came in, and settled up the county, the population increased rapidly, more railroads were

built in 1899 and 1902, modern inventions took the place of the crude appliances of pioneer days, and the county became one of the leading agricultural regions of the state. During this period the other villages of the county were established.

**The Modern Period.** The modern period begins with 1906, in which year modern ditching and tiling was extensively inaugurated, preliminary work having been done in 1905. This period, inaugurated by the wet years which caused a severe setback to the county, has been characterized by the automobile which has made communication easier and quicker, by the ditching which has drained the land to some extent, and by the making of state roads which now net-work the county in all directions. It has also been characterized by the rapid rise in land values, and by the incoming of many intelligent farmers from Iowa and Illinois.

### CHAPTER III.

#### PHYSICAL FEATURES.

**Geologic Eras.** During the Geologic Eras, in one of which we are still living, the earth has assumed its present physical aspect. The study of these successive changes, except those which have been brought about by the occupation of modern man, and those which are still taking place and may thus exert an influence on the economic life of mankind, is beyond the scope of this work. A consideration of the physical characteristics and geologic phenomena observed in this county is, however, appropriate.

---

**Topography.** The surface of the county is, with the exceptions of the valleys of the streams, a series of broad swells. The highest portions of the adjoining undulations vary from a few rods to a half mile or more apart; and their elevation is sometimes 5 to 15 feet, and again 20 to 30 feet, or rarely more, above the depressions, to which the descent is usually by very gentle slopes. These hollows have a form that is like that of the swells inverted, being mostly wide, and either in long and often crooked courses of unequal length, variously branched and connected one with another, or in basins from one to one hundred acres or more in extent, which have no outlet but are surrounded by land 5 feet or perhaps 10, 20 or 30 feet higher upon all sides. The small swamps, which often fill the depressions, are called sloughs or marshes, the former name being the most common in this prairie region, while the latter is applied to them in wooded parts of the state.



Many others of these depressions contain bodies of water, which vary from a few rods or a hundred feet to five or ten miles in length. All these are called lakes, and the term pond, which would be applied to them in the northeastern United States, is here restricted to reservoirs made by dams. The lakes of this and surrounding counties usually lie in shallow basins, bounded by gently ascending shores, which, however, are here and there steep to the height of 10 to 15, and rarely 20 to 25 feet. These higher banks are mostly at projecting points of the shore, and they have been formed by the undermining action of the waves. The foot of such banks is plentifully strewn with boulders that had been contained in the till, all the fine parts of which have been thus washed away. Other parts of the lake shore, adjoining tracts of lowland or marsh, are frequently bordered by a flattened ridge of gravel and sand, often with intermixed boulders, heaped up by the action of ice in winters, in its ordinary freezing, thawing, and drifting, when broken up, before the wind. These ice-formed lake-ridges rise only from three to six feet above the line of high water of the lake, and are from two or three to five or six rods wide. They occur most frequently in situations where they separate the lake from a bordering marsh, whose area evidently was at first a part of the lake.

The most notable features of the topography of this region are the valleys or channels that have been eroded in its broadly smoothed and approximately flat expanse by creeks and rivers. The smaller streams generally flow 15 to 30 feet below the general level, with valleys from a few rods to a quarter of a mile wide. The valley of the Redwood river is of small depth, 25 to 50 feet, along its course above Redwood Falls. At and below this town, within a distance of one mile, this river descends a hundred feet in a succession of picturesque cascades and rapids, over granite and gneiss, decomposing portions of which form towering cliffs, 100 to 150 feet high, on each side, from an eighth to a quarter of a mile apart. This gorge, extending one and a half miles before it opens into the broader bottomland of the Minnesota river, is quite unique in its grand and beautiful scenery, with dense woods along its bottom through which the river flows, but crowned above by the verge of prairies whose vast expanse, slightly undulating but almost level in this extensive view, stretches away farther than the eye can reach.

In Redwood county the Cottonwood river lies in a depression from a third to a half of a mile wide, composed of level alluvial bottomland, 40 feet below the average surface.

The valley of the Minnesota river on the north side of this and Brown county is from 165 to 180, and in some portions 200 feet deep, having a bottom land of alluvium 5 to 20 feet above



low water and from three-fourths of a mile to one and a half miles wide, bordered by steep bluffs which rise to the general level of the country. Within this valley at numerous places are jutting knobs and small ridges of gneiss and granite, exposures of Cretaceous strata, and terraces of modified drift, which are described farther on in treating of geological structure. From the top of the bluffs the vast prairie stretches away beyond the horizon, having a smoothly undulating surface of till, which appears to be in general approximately level, though a considerable ascent, varying in amount from 75 to 150 feet, is made imperceptibly in a distance of twenty to twenty-five miles southwestward across these counties.

Here and there this sheet of unmodified glacial drift or boulder-clay, the direct deposit of the ice-sheet, is sprinkled with knolls, small and short ridges, or mounds, of gravel and sand, which rise sometimes by steep, but again by moderate or gentle slopes, 10 to 15 or 20 feet above the general level. The distribution and origin of these kame-like deposits of modified drift are more fully noticed on a following page.

In the southwest corner of Redwood county, its even contour, which to this distance from the Minnesota river may be called in general a vast plain, is changed; and a gradual rise of 200 or 300 feet takes place within a distance of a few miles, along a massive terrace which extends from northwest to southeast and east-southeast. This line of highland forms the northeastern border and first prominent ascent of the Coteau des Prairies, which farther west rises gradually and at length steeply again, to the much higher watershed between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. In southwestern Redwood county a gradual rise begins a few miles south from the Cottonwood river, and in six or eight miles southwestward to the corner of this county amounts to about 250 feet, beyond which a slower rate of ascent continues in the same direction to the belt of swelling and somewhat hilly till at the northeast side of lakes Shetek and Sarah, in Murray county. On the Northwestern railroad, which makes this rise obliquely running from east to west, the ascent from Lamberton to Walnut Grove, in ten miles, is 79 feet; and in its next eight miles, to Tracy, is 180 feet.

Elevations. In the early eighties, John E. Blunt, engineer, of Winona, prepared a list of the elevations along the line of the Chicago, Northwestern Railway in this region, selections from which are here given, the miles indicated being the distance from Winona, and the feet given being the elevation above the sea level.

Minnesota river, bridge (near New Ulm) 162.50 miles, 821 feet. Minnesota river, high water (near New Ulm) 162.50 miles, 807 feet. New Ulm, 165.31 miles, 837 feet. Siding, 169.00 miles,

990 feet. Sleepy Eye, 179.72 miles, 1,034 feet. Redwood Falls, 205.00 miles, 1,028 feet. Springfield, 193.18 miles, 1,025 feet. Sanborn, 201.56 miles, 1,089 feet. Lamberton, 208.77 miles, 1,144 feet. Walnut Grove, 218.98 miles, 1,223 feet.

The elevation of the Minnesota river along the north side in this region at its ordinary stage of water, 20 to 25 feet below its high floods, is approximately as follows: At the northwest corner of Redwood county, 845 feet above the sea; below Patterson's rapids, at the east side of Swede's Forest, 820 feet; at the mouth of the Redwood river, 810 feet; at the line between Brown and Redwood counties, 789 feet; at Ft. Ridgely, 793 feet; at New Ulm, 784 feet; at the mouth of the Big Cottonwood river, 782 feet.

The Redwood river enters Redwood county at a height of nearly 1,100 feet above the sea, and its descent in twenty-four miles to Redwood Falls is some 150 feet. Thence to its mouth, in three miles, it falls about 140 feet, the greater part of this descent being in less than a half mile at Redwood Falls.

At the west line of Redwood county the Cottonwood river is about 1,120 feet above the sea, and it leaves this county and enters Brown county at an elevation of about 1,030 feet. Its height at Iberia is estimated to be 900 feet, and at its mouth, as already stated, approximately 782 feet.

The highest land of Redwood county is the southwest part of Springdale, its most southwestern township, about 1,400 feet above the sea, being some 300 feet above the Cottonwood river, ten miles distance to the north, and about 600 feet above the lowest land of this county, the shore of the Minnesota river at its northeast corner. Estimates of the mean elevation of its townships are as follows: Sherman, 990 feet; Morgan, 1,030; Brookville, 1,040; Honner, 900; Paxton, 1,025; Three Lakes, 1,060; Sundown, 1,070; Delhi, 1,000; Redwood Falls, 1,050; New Avon, 1,080; Willow Lake, 1,100; Charlestown, 1,120; Swede's Forest, 940; Kintire, 1,050; Sheridan, 1,070; Vail, 1,100; Waterbury, 1,125; Lamberton, 1,140; Vesta, 1,080; Granite Rock, 1,120; Johnsonville, 1,125; North Hero, 1,175; Underwood, 1,120; Westline, 1,150; Gales, 1,175; Springdale, 1,275. The mean elevation of Redwood county, derived from these figures, is 1,090 feet above the sea.

**Soil.** The black soil, everywhere from one to two feet thick, and often reaching to a depth of three or four feet in the depressions, forms the surface, being glacial drift or till, colored by a small proportion of humic acid derived from the decaying vegetation. This drift is principally clay, with which is an intermixture of sand and gravel, with occasional but not frequent boulders. The composition of this clay makes it quite unfit for brick-making, but gives it a porous character, so that rain and

the water from snow melting are, to a certain extent, absorbed by it, excepting the large part which is drained away by the gentle slopes and the numerous water-courses, and some which stands in the swamps and lowlands. Below the soil cellars and wells find a continuation of this till, yellow in color and commonly soft enough to be dug with a spade, to a depth of ten to twenty feet or sometimes more, and then dark bluish and usually harder to a great depth beyond, which is seldom passed through.

The valley of the Minnesota river, 160 to 200 feet deep, has cut through this mantle of till. Along this valley, and in the last two miles of the Redwood valley before it joins the Minnesota, irregular knobs and ridges of gneiss and granite are exposed to view; and in some places these occupy nearly the whole width between the bluffs of the Minnesota river. Generally, however, the bottomland of the Minnesota river, as also of its large tributaries, are flat tracts of very fertile fine alluvium, or interbedded sand and gravel, covered by a rich soil of fine silt. These bottoms, which would be called intervals in New England, are elevated five to fifteen feet above the streams, being thus mostly within the reach of their highest floods in spring, but are very rarely overflowed during the season of growing crops.

Redwood county was originally mainly prairie or natural grass land, without tree or shrub, consisting of a continuous green sweep, often reaching in gentle undulations and swells, five to twenty feet high, as far as the view extended.

**Timber.** A nearly continuous though often very narrow strip of timber is found immediately bordering the Minnesota river through almost its entire course; but generally much of the bottomland is treeless. The bluffs on the northeast side of the Minnesota have, for the most part, only thin and scanty groves. The southwestern bluffs are, for the most part, heavily wooded. The greater abundance of timber on the southern bluffs of this and other rivers in this region appears to be due to their being less exposed to the sun, and therefore more moist than the bluffs on the opposite side.

Along the Redwood river, and the Cottonwood river through Redwood county and in western Brown county, and along the upper part of the Little Cottonwood river, the width of woodland, excepting occasional interruptions, usually varies from a few rods to an eighth of a mile; but along the last twenty miles of the Cottonwood river and the last eight miles of the Little Cottonwood, the timber generally fills their valleys, from a fourth of a mile to one mile wide.

The lakes of Redwood county and of western Brown county have only narrow margins of timber.

The farm groves which are now so conspicuous a feature of the Redwood county landscape, have all been planted.

In northwestern Redwood county, Malcom McNiven has enumerated the following species of trees and shrubs occurring at Swan Lake, on the west line of Underwood: white elm, white ash, box-elder, cottonwood, wild plum, willows, Virginia creeper, climbing bitter-sweet, frost grape, prickly ash, choke-cherry, black currant, and prickly and smooth wild gooseberries, and wild rose, less frequent. Species not found at Swan Lake, but common or frequently on the Redwood river, are bass, red or slippery elm, iron-wood and sugar maple. Red cedars grow on the cliffs of this river at Redwood Falls, and from them has arisen one of the traditions of the name of this river and thence of the county.

The Cottonwood river is said to have its name, which also has been given to a county, from a very large, lone cottonwood, beside this stream, in the south part of Redwood county, about seven miles northwest of Lamberton; but this tree has also a luxuriant growth throughout the timbered bottomlands of this river.

The northern limit of the black walnut appears to be at the Walnut Grove, of about a hundred acres, from which comes the name of the neighboring station and village on the railroad, the grove itself being on Plum creek in sections 25 and 36, Springdale, close to the south line of Redwood county, and one to two miles southwest from Walnut Grove village.

**Geological Structure.** The foundation of Brown and Redwood counties, northwest from New Ulm, consists of metamorphic gneiss and granite, belonging to the great series denominated Eozoic or Archaean, which embraces the most ancient rocks known to geology. This is overlain by various shales, sandstones, limestones and clays, the latter sometimes holding beds of lignite, which are regarded together as of Cretaceous age. Cretaceous strata, including lignite, outcrop in the bluffs of the Redwood river close north of Redwood Falls; in the bluffs of Fort Creek near Fort Ridgely, in the west extremity of Nicollet county and close to the Minnesota valley, about sixteen miles below the last, and on the Cottonwood river in western Brown county.

Fossiliferous and sometimes lignitic clays of Cretaceous age are occasionally encountered in the wells through this region, especially at Walnut Grove and northward in western Redwood county, and in Lyon county, adjoining this on the west. The sheet of drift which forms the surface is thus often separated by unconsolidated Cretaceous beds from the underlying floor of crystalline rocks. Within the area here reported this gneissic and granitic floor outcrops, away from the valley of the Minnesota river and Redwood, at only one or two points, which are in Granite Rock township. These formations will be described in the order of their age, beginning with the oldest.

**Gneiss and Granite.** These rocks have the same composition, being made up of quartz, feldspar and mica. Gneiss differs from granite in having these minerals laminated, or arranged more or less distinctly in layers. Nearly all of the metamorphic rocks to be described here are varieties of gneiss, with which masses of granite, syenite and mica and hornblendeschists occur rarely.

In the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 12, Granite Rock, an exposure of rock extends ten rods in length, from northwest to southeast, with half as great a width, rising five to ten feet above the surface of the undulating prairie. It is light grain gneiss, much contorted, with its strike and dip obscure; intersected by few joints, which in some portions are absent across an extent of three or four rods, enclosing in the southeast two or three masses of nearly black mica schist, each two or three feet long.

About five miles further west, in N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 6, in the same township, is said to have an exposure of the same rock about three rods in extent, with a larger space around it where the rock lies only a few feet beneath the surface.

The depth of these rocks in this region is generally from 100 to 200 feet or more, so that they are not reached by wells nor by the channels of most of the rivers. Their only other outcrops in Redwood and Brown counties are within the Minnesota valley and are in the gorge of the Redwood river at and below Redwood Falls.

The Minnesota valley, in the northwest corner of Swedes Forest and in the edge of Yellow Medicine county, contains abundant ledges for two miles, reaching 40 to 75 feet above the river. A lone school house is situated among them, about a mile east of the county line. Half a mile west from this school house the rock is reddish gray gneiss, dipping 15 N. N. W. A third of a mile west from this school house are massive granite cliffs, probably rising 75 feet above the river, divided by joints into nearly square blocks ten to fifteen feet in dimension. An eighth of a mile east from the last it is obscurely laminated gneiss, much intersected by joints, the principal system of which dips 15 S. At the east side of the school house it is also gneiss, somewhat water-worn, dipping about 5 S.

Within the next few miles following down the river, similar ledges are seen on its northeast side, in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 16, in Sacred Heart, Renville county, rising about 50 feet above the river; in the southeast part of section 17, Swedes Forest, rising at several points 25 to 40 feet; at south side of Big Spring creek, in section 20 and the west edge of section 21, Swedes Forest, about 50 feet above the river, and near the north line of section 27, small in area and only about 20 feet high.

From the small creek a mile farther east in section 26, Swedes Forest, ledges of gneiss and granite abound in this valley through a distance of twelve miles, to the mouth of Redwood river and Beaver creek. They often quite fill the bottomland, occurring on each side of the river and rising from 50 to 125 feet above it. Between Redwood river and Beaver creek frequent small ledges rise along the bottom of the Minnesota valley, in knobs 40 to 60 feet above the river, but yet leave much open tillable land. Between Beaver and Birch Cooley creeks outcrops are mainly on the north side of the river, rising 100 feet in their highest portions. Below the mouth of Birch Cooley they are mostly on the south side, occurring in great abundance for two miles above and three miles below the mouth of Wabashaw creek. The highest of these are a mile above this creek, rising 75 to 125 or perhaps 140 feet above the river.

It will be remembered that the bluffs along this part of the valley are about 175 feet high, so that none of these ledges were visible until the surface of the drift-sheet had been considerably channeled.

On the Redwood river where it enters the Minnesota valley, one and a half miles northeast of Redwood Falls, the rock is greenish, being apparently a "talcoose quartzite," or protogine gneiss, dipping 25 S. E. It forms cliffs 50 to 75 feet high, which are continuous on the west side of the river a quarter of a mile more. The picturesque gorge of the Redwood river at and below Redwood Falls is principally cut through a similar gneiss, partly decomposed, and sometimes almost completely kaolinized, overlain by Cretaceous strata, which in turn are capped with glacial drift. The largest cascade, having a fall of about 25 feet, is over a ledge of this protogine gneiss, much contorted and jointed, often obscure in its lamination.

The dip of the principal system of joints, which appears to coincide nearly with the lamination, is 20 to 30 N. At a cut which has been made through the rock two rods east of this cascade, it contains a nearly vertical trap dike, seen along an extent of some thirty or forty feet, bearing N. 40 E., about two feet wide, composed of dark greenish, compact rock, which weathers to a reddish color, much jointed in planes parallel with its walls. Ten feet above the bottom of this cut, and higher, the cliff of gneiss is much decayed and changed to impure kaolin.

**Decomposed Gneiss and Granite.** Very remarkable chemical changes have taken place in the upper portions of many of the exposures of gneiss and granite near Redwood Falls. The rock is transformed to a soft, earthy or clayey mass, resembling kaolin. It has a blue or greenish color, when freshly exposed; but when weathered, assumes a yellowish ash color, and finally becomes white and glistening. Laminae of quartz are generally

contained in this material, and have the same arrangement as in gneiss, so that the dip can be distinctly seen. Veins of quartz or feldspar, the latter completely decomposed, and the lines of joints, are also noticeable, just as in granite or gneiss; making it evident that this substance is the result of a decay of rocks in their original place.

Because of the enclosed quartzose laminae, grains and particles of more or less gritty character, throughout these kaolin-like rocks, they appear to be unsuited for the manufacture of porcelain or any kind of ware. So far as can be judged from stream channels and other exposures, this decomposition reaches in some places to a depth of 20 or 30 feet, perhaps more. All grades of change may be found, from ledges where only here and there a few spots have been attacked and slightly decomposed, to portions where nearly every indication of the original structure has been obliterated.

Of these decomposed rocks on the Redwood river, Prof. N. H. Winchell wrote in the second annual report of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota: "At Redwood Falls the granite is overlain by the kaolin, which has been mentioned, presenting, in connection with this substance, a very interesting series of exposures, suggesting very interesting questions both economical and scientific. About a mile below the village, on the left bank of the river and at the northwest of the bend, is a conspicuous white bluff (probably that seen by Keating, and pronounced white sandstone), composed of white kaolin clay. Near the top of this bluff, where the rains wash it, it is silvery white, and that color is spread over much of the lower portions, though the mass of the lower part is more stained with iron, having also a dull greenish tinge.

The white glossy coating which appears like the result of washing by rains is spread over the perpendicular sides. On breaking off this glossy coating, which is sometimes half an inch thick, the mass appears indistinctly bedded horizontally, but contains hard lumps and iron deposits. Further down, the iron becomes more frequent, and gritty particles like quartz impede the edge of a knife. The bedding is also lost, and the closest inspection reveals no bedding. Yet there is, even then, a sloping striation of arrangement of lines visible in some places on the fresh surface that corresponds in direction with the direction of the principal cleavage plane of the talcose and quartzitic slate already described. In other places this arrangement is not seen, but the mass crumbles out in angular pieces which are superficially stained with iron.

The profile of the bluffs here presents a singular isolated knob or buttress that rises boldly almost from the river. On either side of this bold promontory are retreating angles in the bluff.



A careful inspection of these ravines and of the adjoining bluffs affords indubitable proof that this material, white and impalpable as it is, results from a change in the underlying granite rocks.

"Just above this point is another exposure. It here supplies what is locally known as the 'paint rock,' from an enterprise started several years ago in the manufacture of mineral paint from this material. The decomposed granite here has very much the same appearance as the kaolin at Birch Cooley, but contains more quartz, and is more stained with iron. It is a rusty brown color, but within might be green or blue. It passes upward into the greenish, and then white, kaolin clay already described, but it stands out in a crumbling rusty buttress, exposed to the weather, and has quartzitic grains and concretions, iron-coated, and often an impure iron ore in considerable quantities. It shows silvery or shining talcose flakes, the same as seen in the so-called building rock, near the point where the railroad bridge crosses the Redwood river at North Redwood.

"A short distance above this, nearly opposite Redwood Falls, is situated the rock which was quarried for the manufacture of paint. This has in every respect the same character and composition as that last described. It consists of a perpendicular bluff or point, standing out from a lower talus that rises about 75 feet above the river, to the height of 75 feet more. On the top of this is the drift-clay hardpan, covered by four or five feet of sand and gravel, the whole bluff being about 150 feet above the river. This bold bluff, or promontory, stands between re-entrant angles, its face falling down sheer thirty or forty feet. There is here visible an irregular slatey or cleavage structure in the rock, that at a distance has the appearance of dip toward the S. E. 30.

"This also contains quartz veins and deposits, accompanied by iron, in some places too abundantly to allow of being cut with a knife, though very much of it can be easily shaped with a knife. It shows 'slickensides,' or surfaces that seem to have been rubbed violently against each other, causing a scratched and smoothed appearance, even within the body of the bluff. These surfaces are concave or curving, like putty hardened after being pressed through a crevice."

Before the extensive denudation of the glacial period, it is probable that all the granite and gneiss of this region were covered by a similarly decayed surface. Upon the areas where decomposed rocks still exist, the glacial plowing was shallower than elsewhere. These kaolinized strata are exposed in a ravine north of the Minnesota river, opposite to Minnesota Falls; in the gorge of the Redwood river, below Redwood Falls; in many of the ledges of the Minnesota valley for several miles next



below, especially in excavations made by roads at the foot of the bluffs; in the valley of Birch Cooley near its mouth; and occasionally for eight or ten miles farther southeast. They have been found also in well-digging at considerable distance from the Minnesota valley.

**Cretaceous Beds.** In western Redwood county wells occasionally have gone through the drift and passed into clay or shale below, apparently of cretaceous age, and sometimes proved so by enclosed fossils. Such sections are reported at Walnut Grove in North Hero township, and in Granite Rock.

Cretaceous strata doubtless lie next below the drift upon the greater part of this district; but their only outcrops, excepting within the Minnesota valley and the gorge of the Redwood river, occur on the Cottonwood river in Brown county.

In Sherman, in Redwood county, Prof. Winchell records an exposure of cretaceous beds of sandy marl, horizontally stratified, seen in the road that descends from the Lower Sioux Agency to the old ferry. At this place in 1860 Prof. A. W. Williamson found in a cut for the road about thirty feet above the Minnesota river a large coiled shell, since lost, which agreed nearly with the figure of *Ammonites monilis* seen in an English textbook of geology.

**Lignite.** About four miles farther northwest, or half way from the Lower Sioux Agency to Redwood Falls, a cretaceous outcrop, including a thin layer of lignite, occurs in the south bluff of the Minnesota valley, above Tiger lake, being in the southwest corner of section 35, Honner, some three-quarters of a mile west from the mouth of Crow creek. Mining for the exploration of the lignite, which is an imperfectly formed coal, of inferior quality, yet valuable for fuel, was undertaken here, on the land of George Johnson, in 1871, by William H. Grant and others, a horizontal drift, or adit, being excavated into the bluff to a distance of about 260 feet from its face southward. This followed the same lignite, which, or at least, a black lignite shale, was found continuous along all this distance, being level in the direction of the adit, but dipping to the west about three degrees, or five feet in a hundred.

The adit is about a third of the way up from the foot to the top of the bluff, or some sixty feet above the river. Several tons of coal, sometimes quite clear for a thickness of six to nine inches, were obtained from the mine, and were used as fuel. The cost of the work, however, was about \$2,000, without discovering any portion of the bed that could be profitably mined.

Prof. Winchell describes the formation here explored, and the similar lignite layer in the bluffs of the Redwood river, as follows: "This coal is from one of those layers in the Cretaceous

that are usually known as lignites. It is earthy, passing sometimes into a good cannel coal, or into a bituminous clay. The compact cannel coal is in detached lumps, and occurs throughout a band of about four feet in thickness. This lignite band was followed in drifting into the bank at Crow creek, and was found to divide by interstratification with black clay, showing some leafy impressions and pieces of charcoal.

"The 'coal' here is said to overlie a bed of lumpy marl. . . . In some of the concretions are small shining balls of pyrites. . . . Over the 'coal' is a blue clay, requiring a timbered roof in the tunnel. This clay is likewise Cretaceous. The underlying lumpy or concretionary white marl becomes siliceous, or even arenaceous, the concretions appearing more like chert. Some of it is also pebbly, showing the action of water currents.

The same lignite coal also occurs elsewhere in the same region, the exposures being kept fresh by the freshet waters. More or less exploring and drilling, besides that done by Mr. Grant, has been engaged in, in this vicinity, but never with any better success.

"Near Redwood Falls, on land of Birney Flynn, is another outcrop of carbonaceous deposit in the Cretaceous. This is seen in the left bank of the Redwood river. It is in the form of a back bedded clay or shale, five or six feet thick, more or less mingled with charcoal and ashes, the whole passing below into charcoal fragments mixed with the same ash-like substance. In the latter are sometimes large pieces of fine, black, very compact coal, the same as that already spoken of at Crow creek as cannel coal. These masses show sometimes what appears to the eye to be fine woody fiber, as if they, too, were simply charred wood. Further examination will be needed to determine their origin and nature. They constitute the only really valuable portions of the bed, the light charcoal, which everywhere shows the distinct woody fiber, being generally mixed with the light ashy substance, and in a state of fine subdivision.

"A short distance above Mr. Flynn's land is that of George Houghton, where the Redwood Falls' coal mine was opened. This mine consists of a drift into the bluff, forty feet, following a lignite, or charcoal bed in the Cretaceous. The bed here is seven feet thick, the greater part of it being made up of black, bedded shale or clay, though Mr. Flynn is authority for the statement that it showed a great deal more of the real charcoal than any other point discovered. Some fragments that lay near the opening, contained about nine parts of charcoal to one of ash, the whole very slightly cemented, and so frail as to hardly endure transportation. In this drift were also numerous pieces of what is described by the owners both here and at Crow creek, as 'stone coal.' It is the same as that mentioned as probably a

cannel coal, occurring at Crow creek. It is these harder lumps that are found scattered in the drift throughout the southwestern part of the state."

This mining was done in 1868 or 1869, on the northwest or left side of the Redwood river, about one and a quarter miles north from Redwood Falls, on the south part of the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , of section 30, Honner, the height of the drift being some 75 feet above the river, and about the same amount below the top of the bluffs and general surface of the country. The lignitic bed is reported to dip slightly toward the southwest, and to be overlain conformably by shale, above which the upper part of the bluff is till. Next below the black coaly layer is said to have been a marl, varying from reddish to white, six inches to two feet in thickness, underlain by yellow and blue clay. No exposure of gneiss or granite is visible at this locality.

It appears nearly certain that no workable deposits of coal exist in this region. Prof. Winchell summarizes his observations and conclusions upon this subject as follows:

"First. The rocks that have been explored for coal, on the Cottonwood and Redwood rivers, belong to the Cretaceous system, and do not promise to be productive of coal in valuable quantities.

"Second. The coal there taken out is of an inferior grade, though varying from cannel coal to charcoal." . . . The charcoal, "while it is the more abundant, is of less value for use as fuel. It is light, and quickly ignites. . . . It lies in irregular sheets, generally not more than half an inch thick when pure, but may be disseminated through a thickness of six or eight feet. It is very fragile, hardly bearing transportation."

The cannel coal "is black, or brown black, lustrous, compact, rather hard, and presents every aspect of a valuable coal. It occurs in isolated lumps or pockets, in the same beds as the charcoal, but less abundantly. It readily burns, making a hot fire. In the air, when it has become dry, it cracks and crumbles something like quicklime, but not to a powder."

"Third. As the rocks of the Cretaceous period are believed to have existed throughout the most of this state, the only probable exception being in the southeastern portion, including half a dozen counties, such coal is likely to occur at a great many places.

"Fourth. The 'float' coal which has so often attracted the attention of the people, is derived, so far as yet known, from the disruption of the Cretaceous rocks by the glaciers of the ice period. It is scattered through the drift, and is met with in wells and other excavations, and may be often picked up along the beds of streams."

**Glacial and Modified Drift.** Glacial striae are plainly seen upon the ledge of gneiss in section 12, Granite Rock, bearing S. 50 to 60 E.

The surface of Redwood county is principally till, or the mixture of clay with smaller proportions of sand and gravel and occasional enclosed boulders, which was thus deposited in a mingled unstratified mass by the ice sheets of the glacial period. Its thickness in this county is generally from 100 to 200 feet. Within the till are found occasional layers of sand or gravel, which often yield large supplies of water in wells. Many of these veins of modified drift were probably formed by small glacial streams, and they can not be regarded as marking important divisions of the ice age. It is shown, however, by shells, remains of vegetation and trees, found evidently in the place where they were living, underlain and overlain by till, that this very cold period was not one unbroken reign of ice, but that this re-treated and re-advanced, or possibly at sometimes was nearly all melted and then accumulated anew.

Two principal glacial epochs can be distinguished, in the first of which all of Minnesota except its southeast corner was deeply covered by the continental ice sheet, and its border was several hundred miles south of this district, in Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and southern Illinois; whereas in the later very severely cold epoch, the ice fields were of less extent, and terminated from 50 to 300 miles within their earlier limit, covering all the basin of the Minnesota river, but not enveloping a large tract in the southwest corner of Minnesota and leaving uncovered a much larger area than before in the southeast part of the state. Between these glacial epochs the ice sheet was melted away within the basins of the Minnesota and Red rivers, and probably from the entire state.

The greater part of the till appears to have been deposited by this earlier ice sheet; and during the retreat of the ice this till was overspread in some places, especially along the avenues of drainage, by the beds of modified drift, or stratified gravel, sand and clay, washed from the material which had been contained in the ice and snow and now became exposed upon its surface to the multitude of rills, rivulets and rivers that were formed by its melting.

In the ensuing interglacial epoch, this drift sheet was channeled by water-courses till its valleys were apparently as numerous and deep as those of our present streams. The interglacial drainage sometimes went in a different direction from that now taken by the creeks and rivers; and the valleys then excavated in the drift, though partly refilled with till during the last glacial epoch, are still, in some instances, clearly marked by series of lakes. More commonly the interglacial water-courses

must have occupied nearly the same place with the valleys of the present time; and there seems to be conclusive proof that this was true of the valley of the Minnesota river.

A long period intervened between the great glacial epochs; the earlier ice sheet gradually retreated northward; a lake was formed in the Red river valley by the receding ice barrier on the north; the outflow from this lake, and the drainage of the Minnesota basin itself, appear to have excavated the valley of the Minnesota river nearly as it now is; and the further recession of the ice sheet probably even allowed the drainage of the Red river basin to take its course northward, as now, to Hudson bay, this being indicated by fossiliferous beds enclosed between deposits of till within the area that had been covered by this interglacial lake and was afterward occupied by lake Agassiz at the close of the last glacial epoch.

Again a severely cold climate prevailed, accumulating a vast sheet of ice upon British America and the greater part of Minnesota. By this glacial sheet the valley of the Minnesota river was partly refilled with till, but it evidently remained an important feature in the contour of the land surface. During the final melting of this ice sheet, its waters, discharged in this channel, quickly removed whatever obstructing deposits of drift it had received, and undermined its bluffs, giving them again the steep slopes produced by fluvial erosion. This partial re-excavation and sculpture were then followed immediately, during the retreat of the ice sheet, by the deposition of the stratified gravel, sand and clay, 75 to 150 feet deep, remnants of which occur as terraces on the sides of this valley, from its mouth to New Ulm, and less distinctly beyond.

Had not the great valley existed nearly in its present form through the last glacial epoch, it could not have become filled with this modified drift, which must belong to the era of melting of the last ice sheet. After the departure of the ice, the supply of both water and sediment was so diminished that the river could no longer overspread the former flood plain of modified drift and add to its depth, but has been occupied mainly in slow excavation and removal of these deposits, leaving remnants of them as elevated plains or terraces.

**Terminal Moraines.** In Redwood county the morainic tract is not prominent, and its course, which is believed to coincide approximately with that of the Cottonwood river, has not been traced. Close south of the valley of this river in the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 14, Gales, numerous small hillocks and ridges, ten to twenty feet high, rough with abundant boulders, were observed to occupy a width from a few rods to an eighth of a mile or more, reaching a half a mile or more in length from east to west; and from a bridge in section 10, Gales, a noteworthy hill, perhaps

sixty feet high, is seen in the view westward, situated not far from where the Cottonwood river crosses the county line. Farther northwest, this moranic belt is clearly traced across Yellow Medicine and Lac Qui Parle counties, its most conspicuous accumulations being the Antelope hills.

During the later stages in the recession of this ice sheet, when the fourth and fifth terminal moraines of its Minnesota lobe were formed, its southern extremity was successively at Kiester in Faribault county and at Elysian in Le Sueur county, and its southwest boundary doubtless crossed Brown and Redwood counties, but the marginal accumulations of drift belonging to these stages have not been traced here. A shallow lake extended along the edge of the ice sheet across these counties and acted to partially level down and smooth the morainic deposits. It seems likely, however, that they are still recognizable, and by careful observation might be mapped approximately. At the time of the fourth or Kiester moraine, the ice margin probably extended through the central part of Brown and Redwood counties; and the kame-like deposits near Sleepy Eye and in Granite Rock and the northwest part of Vesta, may in part represent this moraine. The fifth or Elysian moraine is probably indicated similarly in section 33, Swedes Forest.

**Modified Drift of the Last Glacial Epoch.** Upon the sheet of till which covers Redwood county are frequently noticed mounds and knolls or short ridges of gravel and sand, 10 to 20 feet, or rarely 30 feet or more, in height, which in any excavation are seen to be irregularly interstratified and obliquely bedded. These deposits appear to have been formed by streams that flowed from the drift-strown surface of the departing ice fields of the last glacial epoch; having a similar origin with the eskers or kames, which form prolonged ridges, or series of interlocking ridges and mounds, in Ireland and Scotland, in Sweden, and in New England. Conspicuous kame-like deposits of modified drift in Redwood county were observed in the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 33, Swedes Forest, where a mound of this class rises some 30 feet above the general level; in the northwest part of Vesta, which has numerous hillocks and short ridges of gravel and sand, 10 to 40 feet in height, trending from north to south more commonly than in other directions; and in Granite Rock and thence southward to the Cottonwood river.

**Authority.** "The Geology of Brown and Redwood Counties," by Warren Upham, contained in pages 562-558 of "The Geology of Minnesota," published in 1884, the whole volume being Vol. I, of the Final Report of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota, 1872-1882.

## CHAPTER IV.

**PREHISTORIC INHABITANTS.**

Scientists declare that in the Glacial period, this region was several times covered with a great ice sheet at recurrent intervals. When for the last time the glacier receded, and its melting waters subsidize, it left behind an area that in a few years became a wonderfully diversified and beautiful region. Verdure took the place of glaring ice and swirling waters. The smiling expanses of gently rolling prairie, beautiful and virgin, dipping here and there into swales and pools, or even into sparkling lakes, covered in the summer with luxuriant grass and spangled with flowers, were caressed by perfumed breezes, untrod by human foot, and unmarred by human handiwork. In the ravines and along the watercourses were forest trees and tangled underbrush. And this varied landscape fairly quivered with animal life. The American bison, commonly called the buffalo, ranged the prairies, countless birds of all kinds flew over its surface, great flocks of waterfowl lived in its marshes and pools. In the edges of the wooded ravines, antlered animals such as the deer and the elk, and the larger fur-bearing animals such as the bear, were found in greatest profusion. All the smaller animals common to this climate found a home here. Prairie and woodland presented a scene of teeming life and ceaseless animal activity.

A country so bountiful and inviting to man, whether primitive or civilized, would remain uninhabited only while undiscovered. At some period of the earth's history, mankind in some form took up its abode in what is now Redwood county. How many ages distant that period was no one can tell. It is evident that man followed very closely the receding of the last glacier, if indeed he had not existed here previous to that time. A discussion of the possibilities of the existence of man in Minnesota during Glacial, Inter-Glacial and Pre-Glacial ages is beyond the scope of this work. It has been made a special subject of study by several Minnesota savants, and many notable articles have been written concerning evidences that have been discovered.

Many scholars are of the opinion that in all probability the first inhabitants of the northern part of the United States were, or were closely related to the Eskimo. While the data are very meagre, they all point that way. The Eskimos seem to have remained on the Atlantic seaboard as late as the arrival of the Scandinavian discoverers of the eleventh century, for their description of the aborigines whom they call "skrälingar" (a term of contempt about equivalent to "runts") is much more consonant with the assumption that these were Eskimos than Indians.



So possibly it is permissible to picture the first human inhabitants of Redwood county as a small yellowish-brown skin-clad race, identical with the quartz workers of Little Falls, slipping around nimbly and quietly in the woods and dells, subsisting mainly on fish, but also partly on the chase. Their homes were doubtless of the simplest descriptions, and their culture not above absolute savagery.

The Eskimos seem to have followed more or less closely the edge of the last receding glacier. Whether they were forced out by a stronger race or whether they found the bleak shores of the Arctic seas more suited to their physical make-up than the fertile regions further south is only a matter of conjecture.

Scholars are of the opinion that the next inhabitants of Minnesota were tribes of the Siouan stock, in other words the ancestors of the present Sioux (Dakota) Indians. These peoples of the Siouan stock appear to have built the mounds of southern Minnesota. Possibly they lived in Redwood county. These Siouan people were possibly driven out by the people of the Algonquin stock, whereupon they eventually took up their homes in the neighborhood of the upper valley of the Ohio river and possibly elsewhere. How many centuries they lived there it is impossible even to estimate. In the meantime the Algonquin peoples probably occupied the Minnesota region, and possibly Redwood county. They did not make mounds. Some five hundred years ago the Siouan Mound Builders were driven out from their homes in the upper Ohio region where they had erected the mounds that are now the wonder of the world, and a part of them found their way to the homes of their ancestors in the upper Mississippi and the Minnesota river region. The mounds built here by these peoples were inferior to the ones built by their ancestors. In coming up the valley it is possible that these Mound Builders drove from the Minnesota regions the intruding Algonquins.

The Siouan Mound Builders, returning some five hundred years ago from the Ohio region were doubtless the builders of the mounds in Redwood county, though there are possibly some mounds in this county built by the Siouan people during their previous occupancy of the region.

**The Mound Builders.** Not so many years ago there was a widespread belief that the Mound Builders were a mysterious people of high culture resembling the Aztecs, and differing from the Indian in race, habits and customs. Now, scholars are unanimous in their belief that the Mound Builders were merely the ancestors of the Indians, doubtless, as already related, of the Sioux Indians, and not characteristically differing from them. These Mound Builders are the earliest race of whose actual residence in Redwood county we have absolute evidence. While Redwood can not boast of mounds of such gigantic proportions as



some other parts of the United States, nor of such grotesque formations as the serpent mound of Ohio, yet the mounds of the county are sufficient in number, kind and distribution, to present a rich field for archaeological inquiry, as well as supplying evidence that Redwood county was populated by this ancient people.

The larger groups are invariably situated near the water-courses and usually on the lofty terraces that give a commanding view of magnificent prospects. Such a distribution of the mounds finds its explanation in the fact that the river banks afford excellent sites for habitations, and the rivers afford routes of travel in times of peace and war. Above all the streams furnish two substances absolutely necessary for the maintenance of life, namely water and food. The Mound Builder was not slow in picking out picturesque places as a location for his village sites. The distribution of the mounds bears ample proof of this. Any one who visits the groups can not fail to be convinced that the Mound Builders were certainly guided in the selection of the location for the mounds by an unerring sense of beautiful scenery and a high appreciation and instinctive love of nature as well as by other factors.

**Purpose of the Mounds.** The mounds of Redwood county are both oblong and round, varying from a swell of land to several feet in height. Other varieties have also been found. The arrangement of mounds in the various groups does not seem to depend on any definite rule of order, but seems to result from a process of mound building, extending over a considerable period of time, each site for a mound being selected by the builders according to the space, material, or topography of the locality.

Undoubtedly each mound was placed for some definite purpose on the spot where it is found today, but what the purpose of any particular mound was may be difficult to say. The spade often partially tells us what we want to know, but sometimes it leaves us as much as ever in the dark. When the interior of a mound reveals human bones, then the inference is that the mound served as a tomb, but intrusive burials, that is burials made long after the mounds were built, complicate the problem. But when a mound can be opened without revealing any trace of human remains or of artificial articles, it seems safe to conclude that not all the mounds were built for burial purposes. The erection of such a large number of mounds as exist along the Mississippi and its tributaries in Minnesota must have required an enormous expenditure of time and labor. The tools with which all the work was done were probably wooden spades rudely shaped, stone hoes and similar implements which indicate a low degree of industrial culture. Where the whole village population turned out for a holiday or funeral, a large mound could be built in a

much shorter time than if the work was performed by only a few individuals. The surface of the land adjoining the mounds in Redwood county, and in fact all the mounds of this vicinity, frequently shows plain evidences of where the material was obtained for the construction of the mound. All in all, the regularity, symmetry and even mathematical exactness with which the mounds are built show considerable skill and taste. The reader can picture to himself the funeral scenes, the wailings of the sorrowing survivors, and the flames of the funeral pyres which were sometimes built. Or one can picture the mourning relatives waiting beneath the tree in which the body has been suspended on a scaffold while the elements are stripping the bones of flesh preparatory to their interment.

**Life and Habits of the Mound Builders.** Modern scientists unite in the belief that the Mound Builders were Indians, the ancestors of the Indians that the early settlers found here. The old theory of a race of Mound Builders superior in intellect and intelligence to the Indian has been exploded by archaeological research, though a few of the older text books advance the now obsolete theory.

The evidences that the race of Mound Builders was a race of genuine Indians are many. Indians are known to have built mounds. The articles found in the mounds are the same as the articles found on the Indian village sites nearby. Invariably a large group of mounds has nearby evidences of such a village. The articles found in the mounds and on the village sites are such as the Indians used.

Tomahawks, battle clubs, spearheads and arrows signify war and the chase. The entire absence of great architectural remains show that the Mound Builders lived in frail homes. The dearth of agricultural implements speaks of the absence of any but the most primitive farming. Ash-pits and fireplaces mark the bare ground as the aboriginal stove. Net-sinkers imply the use of nets; ice axes the chopping of holes in the ice to procure water; stone axes, a clumsy device for splitting wood; stone knives were used for scalping, cutting meat and leather and twigs; countless flakes mark the ancient arrow maker's workshop; cracked bones show the savages' love for marrow; shell beads, charms and ornaments in the shape of fish and other designs reveal a primitive desire for ornamentation; chisels and gouges recall the making of canoes; sun-dried pottery made of clay mixed with coarse sand, clamshells or powdered granite and marked with rows of dots made with a stick, thumbnail or other objects, or else marked with lines, V-shaped figures or chevrons, all are an index of rather a crude state of pottery making. The hand supplied the lathe and the wheel.

All of these things tell us something of the habits and condi-

tion of the Mound Builders and are further evidence that the Mound Builders differed in no important manner from the Indians found here by the early explorers.

The people were rude, semi-agricultural, warlike, ignorant of all metals except copper, hunters with stone arrow and spear, naked in warm weather and clothed with the skins of the buffalo and bear in winter. Their skill in art was confined to the making of such domestic utensils and such weapons of war and of the chase as were demanded for the personal comforts and physical necessities. They have left no literature, and these heaps of earth and a few rude pictures scraped in soft stones, together with a few crude relics, are our only source of information regarding this once powerful people.

**Location of Mounds.** The artificial mounds of Redwood county have never been adequately surveyed or excavated, though many interesting studies have been made of them. A volume entitled "The Aborigines of Minnesota," published by the Minnesota State Historical Society in 1911, contains a valuable resumé of these explorations and studies as follows:

Mounds below Redwood Falls, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 30, township 113-35, group of thirteen mounds, about 150 feet above the Minnesota river, of which seven are elongated and one is angled twice in opposite directions in equal amounts, so that its parts, at the extremities, are still parallel with each other. Redwood river is 900 feet toward the west. The largest tumulus is 75 feet by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and has been excavated. Surveyed Sept. 29, 1884.

In 1867 the largest of these tumuli was opened by David Watson by sinking a shaft from the center downward. He found some very much decayed human bones at the depth of four feet. From four feet to eight feet from the surface he found iron rust, indicating, as he judged, that some tool had been oxidized and lost. He also found in the immediate vicinity, glass beads of many different shapes, sizes, colors and varieties, and more human bones that were not so much decomposed, indicating burial at two dates.

He also reported "rifle pits" in section 31, a little north of the center, and gives a statement by an "intelligent Indian" that that was the scene of a hard-fought battle of several days' duration. Similar pits were reported by Mr. Watson in 1868 on the north side of the Redwood river, on section 8, township 112-36," similar to those near the mouth of the same river. —(Hill record).

Mounds a mile and a half below the Lower Agency (a) S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 9, township 112, 34; three tumuli about 100 feet above the bottomland. Surveyed Oct. 31, 1887; (b) S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 9, township 112, 34. Lone mound about 100 feet above the bottomland.

Mounds about one and three-quarters miles east-southeast of the Lower Agency (a) S.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 9, township 112, 34; a lone mound 100 feet above the bottomland. Surveyed Oct. 31, 1887. (b) N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 9, township 112, 34; three tumuli about 100 feet above the bottomland. Surveyed Oct. 31, 1887. (c) S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 9, township 112, 34; a lone mound about 100 feet above the bottomland. Surveyed Oct. 31, 1887.

Mounds four and a half miles east of Redwood Falls, N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 3, township 112, 35; about 125 feet above the river, on a ridge; three tumuli, about 30 feet in diameter, on cultivated land. Surveyed Oct. 31, 1887.

There is a lone mound two and a half miles below Patterson's Rapids, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 9, township 113, 36, 30 feet in diameter, 10 feet high; about 100 feet above the bottomland.

Mounds five and a half miles east of Redwood Falls, S.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 2, township 112, 35; about 125 feet above the river. No. 5 is 30 feet by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet, with an exterior ditch of eight feet by one foot. The group embraces 10 mounds, of which two are elongated.

There is a lone mound, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 6, township 112, 34, at the Lower Agency, immediately opposite Birch Cooley creek, about 110 feet above the bottomland, 30 feet by one foot.

On the Cottonwood river, somewhere not far from the South Pass wagon roads, there are some mounds of small size.—(Hill record).

A trapper reported one N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 32, township 109, 35, on the right bank of a stream emptying into the Cottonwood.—(Hill record).

**Authority and References.** P. M. Magnusson in the "History of Stearns County," H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co., 1915.

Edward W. Schmidt in the "History of Goodhue County," H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co., 1910.

"The Aborigines of Minnesota," 1906-1911, a Report Based on the Collections of Jacob V. Brower, and on the Field Surveys and Notes of Alfred J. Hill and Theodore H. Lewis, Collated, Augmented and Described by N. H. Winchel, published by the Minnesota Historical Society, 1911.

## CHAPTER V.

**INDIAN OCCUPANCY AND TREATIES.**

The archeology and anthropology of the American Indian is still in its infancy. But a few fundamental facts stand out in bold relief. We are told by scientists that man is of great antiquity in America; and that though the aborigines' blood is doubtless mixed with later arrivals in many localities and tribes, still, barring the Eskimo, the fundamental race characteristics are the same from Hudson Bay to Patagonia. Hence a common American ancestry of good antiquity must be predicated of the whole Indian race.

If an imaginary line is drawn east and west through the southern boundary of Virginia, then except for the northwest corner of British America, the Red Men in the territory north of this line and east of the Rocky mountains, including the larger part of the United States and British America, are and have been for centuries almost exclusively of just three linguistic stocks: Iroquoian, Siouan and Algonquian. The one reason for classing these Indians into three ethnic stocks is that the vocabularies of their languages do not seem to have a common origin. Otherwise these Indians are so familiar physically and psychically that even an expert will at times find it hard to tell from appearance to which stock an individual belongs. These three stocks are in mental, moral and physical endowment the peers of any American aborigines, though in culture they were far behind the Peruvians, Mexicans and the nations in the southwestern United States. But their native culture is not so insignificant as is the popular impression. Except the far western bands who subsisted on the buffalo, they practiced agriculture; and in many, if not in most tribes, the products of the chase and fishing supplied less than half their sustenance; their moccasins, tanned skin clothing, bows and arrows, canoes, pottery and personal ornaments evinced a great amount of skill and not a little artistic taste. Their houses were not always the conical tipi of bark or skins, but were often very durable and comparatively comfortable and constructed of timber or earth or even stone.

**The Dakotas.** As to how these stocks came originally into this territory there is no certain knowledge but much uncertain speculation. Here we shall be content to start with the relatively late and tolerably probable event of their living together, in the eastern part of the United States, some five centuries ago. Algonquians lived on the Atlantic slope, the Iroquois perhaps south of Lake Erie and Ontario, and the Siouans in the upper Ohio valley. These Siouan peoples had possibly previously occupied the upper

Mississippi region, but for some reason had left there. At any rate, a century or so before the arrival of Columbus, found them for the most part in the upper Ohio valley. What peoples, if any, were in the meantime living on the plains of the upper Mississippi is not definitely known. Of the Siouan peoples we are interested in the main division of the Sioux, more properly the Dakotas. Probably because of the pressure of the fierce and well organized Iroquois, the Sioux, perhaps about 1400 A. D., began slowly to descend the Ohio valley. Kentucky and the adjacent parts of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois were certainly at that time a primitive man's paradise, and the anabasis begun under compulsion was enthusiastically continued from choice. They reached the confluence of the Ohio and the Mississippi. Probably here they first encountered the buffalo, or bison, in large numbers. The spirit of adventure and the pressure of an increasing population sent large bands up the Mississippi. When the Missouri was reached no doubt some followed that stream. Those who kept to the Mississippi were rewarded as they ascended the stream by coming into what was from the viewpoint of primitive man a richer country. Coming up into Minnesota a forest region was encountered soon after passing through beautiful Lake Pepin. Soon a roaring cataract blocked the way of the Dakota canoes. St. Anthony Falls, of which now scarce a remnant is left, thundered over its ledge among the leafy boskage of banks and islands. Slowly but surely up the stream pushed the Dakotas. Rum river was reached, and its friendly banks were doubtless for many seasons dotted with the Dakota's tipis. But when the hunter-explorer's eyes first rested on the wide expanse of Mille Laes, he rightly felt he had found a primitive paradise. M'dewakan, the Spirit lake, the lake of spiritual spell, soon became the site of perhaps the largest permanent encampment or headquarters of the Sioux. From there they scattered wide. Some of the bands discovered the upper Minnesota river region and here settled. These returning Sioux, it is believed, were the builders of all or nearly all of the Redwood county mounds, though some may have been built by their ancestors before they were expelled many centuries earlier. The Redwood county mounds, though less in size and smaller in number, have the same interest as those found in Ohio, and which this same people are believed to have constructed.

The name "Dakota," which these Indians applied to themselves, means, "joined together in friendly compact." "Sioux" is a contraction of the word Nadowessiou (variously spelled), the French version of the Chippewa word meaning "Little Adders," or figuratively, "enemies."

The Sioux were in many ways the highest type of the North American Indian, and were physically, perhaps, among the highest types that mankind has reached. Living free lives close to the

democracy of nature, they saw no advantages in organized government; living on the boundless sweeps of the prairies and in the limitless forests, they saw no virtue in that civilization which shackles mankind to a daily routine of petty duties and circumscribes life to the confinement of crowded cities and villages.

There was no written code of law. Tradition and custom alone dictated the conduct and morals of the Sioux. The spirit of this traditional law was as stern as the Mosaic law of the Holy Scriptures, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." A favor was never forgotten, neither was a wrong. Possibly no race has ever been so true to its standards as was the Sioux. Punishment swift and sure was meted out to those who departed from these precepts.

Just as Jehovah revealed himself to the Hebrews as a spirit, permeating all space and all matter, the great Creator who breathed in and through all things, so had the Great Spirit revealed himself to the Sioux. The Sioux found God everywhere. The waterfalls, the winds, the heat, the cold, the rains and the snows, the trees and the birds, the animals and the reptiles, all were "wakon," spiritual mysteries in which God spoke to them.

In an age when civilized Europeans were having their blood drawn from their veins by a barber as a panacea for all diseases, and believing implicitly in the curing powers of witches' brews, made of such ingredients as snake's eyes and rabbit's claws, the Sioux was bringing the ailing back to health by the use of sweat baths and simple herbs.

But with the coming of the white man a great change took place. Outspoken, absolutely truthful, the Sioux was no match for the lying tongue of the white, by which he was robbed of much more than by the white man's gun and powder. He was no match against the insidious vices of alcohol and lust which the white man introduced.

The life of the red man before he came in contact with our so-called civilization, and even later when he had secured nothing more than his gun, knife and kettle, was, though primitive and coarse, not mean nor base. The Indian was healthy and sound in mind and body, wholesome as the woods through which he hunted.

He was poor and improvident, it is true, living from hand to mouth, and taking little thought of the morrow. But this was not moral nor physical shiftlessness, it was a part of his religion. His creed pledged him to poverty; with God's boundless riches spread around about him, his faith forbade his taking more than was necessary for his immediate needs. No one was richer than another. All food was shared. A friend was always welcome to help himself at any time.

The chief was usually the man who by force of personality



could command sufficient respect to hold the position. While there is no evidence that the office of chief was hereditary, nevertheless from the coming of the white man each tribe seems to have had its royal dynasty, handing the ruling power of chief from father to son through several generations. War and hunting parties, however, were led by any brave who could gather a sufficient number of friends about him. One brave might be chief of one expedition and another brave of a succeeding expedition, while the permanent chief of the band seems to have occupied more of a civil position, deciding disputes and giving counsel.

Wabasha, living at Ke-ox-ah (Winona), seems to have been the great overlord of the Medawakanton Sioux, and he likewise seems to have been recognized as ruler by many of the other branches of the Sioux. Each band likewise had a permanent chief, and as noted each expedition that was made had a temporary chief.

All in all, the Indian as he was before the coming of the white man, is deserving of all honor and respect. And horrible though the warfare was that he later waged on the whites who had secured his lands, terrible and wanton as was the revenge he took on defenseless men, women and children, occupying his ancient domains, bitter though the feeling against him must of necessity be by those whose loved ones were ravished, mutilated and murdered, nevertheless the methods of the most civilized and modern warfare have taught the world that between the motives of the wildest savage and the most cultured soldier there is little difference when a man finds himself fighting for existence against those whom he believes to have wronged him. The Indian's method was to torture and mutilate, to strike such terror that the enemy would forever after fear him. The civilized method likewise mutilates, terrorizes and strikes sudden death against those equally defenseless and inoffensive as were those the Indian massacred. The Indian, regarded and treated by the whites as a little lower than an animal, with even his treaty rights disregarded, struck, in the only way he knew, in behalf of the continued existence of himself and of his wife and babes, against a race whose desire for broad acres was ever driving the Red Man and his family further and further from the sweeps over which his forefathers had ranged.

Evil days indeed came for the simple child of the forest, when as scum on the advancing frontier wave of civilization came the firewater, the vices and the diseases of civilized man. Neither his physical nor his spiritual organization is prepared to withstand these powerful evils of a stronger race, and the primitive red man has often, perhaps generally, been reduced to a pitiful parasite on the civilized community, infested with the diseases, the vermin



and the vices of the white man and living in a degradation and squalor that only civilization can furnish.

The white man took from the Indian all his primitive virtues, and gave him none of the virtues of the white man in return. He taught the red man all of the evils of civilization before he was advanced enough to accept its advantages, and tried to make him conform suddenly with those habits of life which with the white race have been the development of ages. Thus burdened with the white man's vices, his own natural mode of living suddenly made impossible, driven here and there by the onrush of civilization, cheated and defrauded by traders and government officials alike, the Indian has degenerated until he is only a travesty on the noble kings of the forest who once held sway in the upper Mississippi and the Minnesota valleys. But a change is now coming with an awakened public conscience. And the results are encouraging. The census seems to indicate that the Indian is no longer a vanishing race. Steady and considerable progress is made in his civilization, and his physical condition is improving.

**Wapeton Dakotas.** Information as to the occupancy of the Minnesota valley during the era of the early explorers is somewhat vague. After the Dakotas in prehistoric times came up the Mississippi river, and in the upper reaches of that river established their homes, the Medewakanton and several subsidiary of the Sioux made their headquarters about Mille Lacs, ranging the rivers and forests and prairies from that point to unknown distances. Probably some bands became permanently separated from the main band. In the days of the early French explorers, the Medewakantons were still living at Mille Lacs. The Warpetonwans, apparently closely allied to the Medewakantons, were ranging the territory west of the upper Mississippi river, between the Crow and the Crow Wing rivers.

The Chippewas drove the Sioux from the Mille Lacs region, and the deposed tribes established themselves at various points.

The location of the several bands inhabiting Southern Minnesota in 1834 has been told by the missionary, S. W. Pond, who came to Minnesota that year. He has written:

"The villages of the Medewakantonwan were on the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, extending from Winona to Shakapee. Most of the Indians living on the Minnesota river above Shakopee were Warpetonwan. At Big Stone lake there were both Warpetonwan and Sissetonwan, and at Lake Traverse, Ihanktonwan (Yankton), Sissetonwan and Warpetonwan. Part of the Warpekute lived on Cannon river and part at Traverse des Sioux. There were frequent intermarriages between these divisions of the Dakotas, and they were more or less intermingled at all their villages. Though the manners, language and dress of the differ-

ent divisions were not all precisely alike, they were essentially one people."

Thus, at that time, Redwood county was Wapeton (spelled Warpetonwan, Wahpeton and Warpeton) country, though the Sissetons, the Yanktons and the Medawakantons were not far away.

Nicollet in his map of the state placed the Wapetons along the Minnesota river in this part of the state, and the Sissetons in the southwestern part of the state.

However, Sleepy Eye's village of Sissetons appears to have been located for a time at least in the vicinity of the mouth of the Little Rock, not far from the present area of Redwood county, and Sleepy Eye and his people also appear at times to have been located in the Cottonwood valley, at various points.

### INDIAN TREATIES.

From prehistoric days up to the time of the treaties signed at Traverse des Sioux, July 23, 1851, and at Mendota, August 5, 1851, ratified and amended by the United States Senate, June 23, 1852, and proclaimed by President Millard Fillmore February 24, 1853, the land now embraced in Redwood county remained in the nominal possession of the Indians. Before this treaty, however, several agreements were made between the Indians of this vicinity and the United States government, regarding mutual relations and the ceding of lands. The first of these was the treaty with Pike in 1805, by which land at the mouths of the Minnesota and St. Croix rivers was ceded to the government for military purposes.

**Visit to Washington.** In 1816, the War of 1812 having been brought to a close, the Indians of this vicinity made peace with the United States and signed treaties placing the Sioux of this neighborhood "in all things and in every respect on the same footing upon which they stood before the late war." Perpetual peace was promised, and it was agreed that "every injury or act of hostility committed by one or the other of the contracting parties against the other shall be mutually forgiven and forgotten." The tribes recognized the absolute authority of the United States. After Ft. Snelling was established, the officers at various times engineered peace pacts between various tribes, but these were usually quickly broken.

In the spring of 1824 the first delegation of Sioux Indians went to Washington to see their "Great Father," the president. A delegation of Chippewas accompanied, and both were in charge of Major Lawrence Taliaferro. Wabasha, then properly called Wa-pa-ha-sha or Wah-pah-hah-sha, the head chief of the band at

Winona; and Little Crow, head of the Kaposia band; and Wahnatah, were the principal members of the Sioux delegation. When the delegation had gone as far as Prairie du Chien, Wabasha and Wahnatah, who had been influenced by traders, desired to turn back, but Little Crow persuaded them to continue. The object of the visit was to secure a convocation of all of the upper Mississippi Indians at Prairie du Chien, to define the boundary line of the lands claimed by the separate tribes and to establish general and permanently friendly relations among them. The party made the trip in keel boats from Fort Snelling to Prairie du Chien, and from there to Pittsburgh by steamboat, thence to Washington and other eastern cities by land.

**Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825.** This treaty, signed August 19, was of importance to the Indians who ranged Redwood county in that it fixed certain general boundaries, and confirmed the fact that the present county lay entirely in Sioux territory. The treaty was participated in by the Chippewa, Sauk (Sac) and Fox; Menominee, Iowa, Sioux, Winnebago; and a portion of the Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi tribes living on the Illinois.

The line between the Sioux and the confederated Sauks and Foxes extended across a part of northern Iowa. It was declared in the treaty to run up the upper Iowa (now the Oneota) river to its left fork, and up that fork to its source; thence crossing the Cedar river to the second or upper fork of the Des Moines, and in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet (Big Sioux) river, and down that river to the Missouri river. On both sides of this line extended a tract which came to be known as the "Neutral Strip," into which the Winnebagoes were later moved as a buffer between the Sioux and their enemies to the South.

The eastern boundary of the Sioux territory was to commence on the east bank of the Mississippi river opposite the mouth of the "Ioway" river, running back to the bluffs and along the bluffs to the Bad Axe river, thence to the mouth of the Black river, and thence to half a day's march, below the falls of the Chippewa. East of this line, generally speaking, was the Winnebago country, though the Menominee country lay about Green Bay, Lake Michigan and the Milwaukee river, and the Menominees claimed as far west as the Black river. The Chippewa country was to be to the north of the Winnebagoes and Menominees, and east of the northern line of the Sioux country, the line between the Chippewa and the Sioux beginning at a point a half a day's march below the falls of the Chippewa, thence to the Red Cedar river immediately below the falls, thence to a point on the St. Croix river, a day's paddle above the lake at the mouth of that river, and thence northwestward across the present state of Minnesota. The line crossed the Mississippi at the mouth of the Watab river just above St. Cloud. Thus both sides of the

Mississippi during its course along Renville county was included in Sioux territory.

The boundary lines were certainly, in many respects, quite indefinite, and whether this was the trouble or not, in any event, it was but a few months after the treaty when it was evident that none of the signers were willing to be governed by the lines established, and hardly by any others. The first article of the treaty provided: "There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between the Sioux and the Chippewas; between the Sioux and the confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes; and between the 'Ioways' and the Sioux." But this provision was more honored in the breach than the observance, and in a little time the tribes named were flying at one another's throats and engaged in their old-time hostilities.

**Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien.** In 1830 a second treaty with the Northwest Indian tribes was held at Prairie du Chien. A few weeks previous to the convocation, which was begun July 15, a party of Wabasha's band of Sioux and some Menominees ambushed a party of Fox Indians some twelve or fifteen miles below Prairie du Chien and killed eight of them, including a sub-chief called the Kettle.

The Foxes had their village near Dubuque and were on their way to Prairie du Chien to visit the Indian agent, whom they had apprised of their coming. They were in canoes on the Mississippi. As they reached the lower end of Prairie du Pierreux they paddled up a narrow channel which ran near the eastern shore, where their concealed enemies opened fire. The Foxes returned to their village, bearing their dead, while the Sioux and Menominees went home and danced over their victory. A few weeks previously the Foxes had killed some of Wabasha's band on the Red Cedar river, in Iowa, and the Sioux claimed that their part in the Prairie du Pierreux affair was taken in retaliation for the Red Cedar affair. In June of the following year a large number of Menominees were camped on an island in the Mississippi, less than a half a mile from Fort Crawford and Prairie du Chien. One night they were all drunk, "men, women and children." Two hours before daylight the Dubuque Foxes took dreadful reprisal for the killing of their brethren at Prairie du Pierreux. Though but a small band, they crept into the Menominee encampment, fell upon inmates, and in a few minutes put a number of them to the gun, the tomahawk and the scalping knife. Thirty Menominees were killed. When the entire Menominee band had been aroused the Foxes, without having lost a man, retired, crying out in great exultation that the cowardly killing of their comrades at Prairie du Pierreux had been avenged.

Because of the Prairie du Pierreux affair the Foxes at first refused to be present at the treaty of Prairie du Chien, but finally

came. Delegates were present from four bands of the Sioux, the Medawakantons, the Wapakootas, the Wahpatons and the Sissetons, and also from the Sacs, Foxes and Iowas, and even from the Omahas, Otoes and Missouris, the homes of the last three tribes being on the Missouri river.

At this treaty the Indian tribes represented ceded all of their claims to the land in western Iowa, northwestern Missouri and especially the country of the Des Moines river valley.

The Medawakanton, Sioux, Wabasha's band, had a special article (numbered 9) inserted in the treaty for the benefit of their half-breed relatives.

The Sioux also ceded a tract of land twenty miles wide along the northern boundary of Iowa from the Mississippi to the Des Moines; consideration \$2,000 in cash and \$1,200 in merchandise.

**The Doty Treaty.** The Doty Treaty, made at Traverse des Sioux (St. Peter), in July, 1841, failed to be ratified by the United States Senate. This treaty embodied a Utopian dream that a territory of Indians could be established, in which the red men would reside on farms and in villages, living their lives after the style of the whites, having a constitutional form of government, with a legislature of their own people elected by themselves, the governor to be appointed by the president of the United States. They were to be taught the arts of peace, to be paid annuities, and to be protected by the armies of the United States from their Indian enemies on the west. In return for these benefits to be conferred upon the Indians, the United States was to receive all the lands in what is now Minnesota, the Dakotas and northwestern Iowa. This ceded land was not to be opened to the settlement of the whites, and the plan was to have some of it reserved for Indian tribes from other parts of the country who should sell their lands to the United States, and who, in being moved here, were to enjoy all the privileges which had been so beautifully planned for the native Indians. But no one can tell what would have been the result of this experiment, for the Senate, for political reasons, refused to ratify the treaty, and it failed of going into effect. This treaty was signed by the Sisseton, Wahpeton and Wapakoota bands at Traverse des Sioux, July 31, 1841, and by the Medawakanton bands at Mendota, August 11 of the same year.

**Preliminaries to Final Session.** No other events or incidents in all time have been of more importance in their influence upon the character and destiny of Minnesota than the negotiations with the Sioux Indians in the summer of 1851, commonly known as the Treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota. As a result of these treaties a vast region of country large enough and naturally rich enough for a kingdom was released from the sway of its owners and opened to white settlement.

Prior to these events only the lands in Minnesota east of the Mississippi river were open to white occupation. The fine, fertile expanse to the westward was forbidden ground. The waves of immigration were steadily rolling in and beating against the legal barrier in increasing volume and growing forces; and as opposed to the demand of the whites for land and power the rights and necessities of the Indians were of little weight. A decent regard for the opinions of mankind and also a fear of the revenge that the Indians might take, demanded, however, that the government go through the form of a purchase, and that some sort of price, even if ridiculously small, be paid for the relinquished land.

In his message to the first Territorial Legislature Governor Ramsey recommended that a memorial to Congress be prepared and adopted praying for the purchase by treaty of a large extent of the Sioux country west of the Mississippi. Accordingly a lengthy petition, very earnest and eloquent in its terms, was, after considerable deliberation, drawn up, finally adopted by both houses and duly presented to Congress. This was in October, but already the national authorities had taken action.

In June, 1849, Orlando Brown, commissioner of Indian affairs, addressed an official letter to Thomas Ewing, then secretary of the interior, recommending negotiations with the Sioux, "for the purpose of purchasing their title to a large tract of country west of the Mississippi river." The commissioner said that the object of the purchase was, "in order to make room for the immigrants now going in large numbers to the new territory of Minnesota, as the Indian title has been extinguished to but a comparatively small extent of the country within its limits." Secretary Ewing approved the report and selected Governor Ramsey and John Chambers, the latter a former territorial governor of Iowa, as commissioners to make the proposed treaty.

In his annual report for 1848 Commissioner Brown had recommended an appropriation to defray the expenses of a Sioux treaty, but Congress failed to make it. So desirous was he for the treaty in 1849 that he was willing to pay the attendant expense out of the "small current appropriations" for his office, and so he warned Ramsey and Chambers that "the strictest economy in all your expenditures will be necessary." He said if they waited for a special appropriation from the next Congress the treaty in its complete form would be postponed for two years, and in the meanwhile there would be increasing trouble between the Indian owners of the land and trespassing settlers.

In August, 1849, Commissioner Brown addressed a lengthy letter to Governors Ramsey and Chambers informing them of their appointment as commissioners to make the treaty and instructing them particularly as to their duties in the premises.



The instructions were not only clear, but very elaborate and comprehensive, and so far as they could be given the commissioners were told just what to do and just how to do it. The fact that some of the directions were unwise and unwarranted was due to the misinformation on the subject which the commissioner had received, and his consequent lack of knowledge as to the situation. For example, in describing the territory which the commissioners were to acquire, Commissioner Brown expressed the opinion that it contained "some 20,000,000 of acres," and that "some of it," no doubt, contained "lands of excellent quality." With respect to the probable worth of the country to the United States the commissioner expressed the opinion that, "from its nature, a great part of it can never be more than very trifling, if of any, value to the government." The country was more valuable for the purpose of a location for homeseekers than for any other purpose, and Commissioner Brown realized that "only a small part of it is now actually necessary for that object."

The contemplated and directed treaty with the Sioux in the fall of 1849 was not held as contemplated. On repairing to Traverse des Sioux in October, Commissioners Ramsey and Chambers found that a large majority of the Upper Indians were absent on their fall hunts. Coming down to Mendota, they found the greater part of the Lower bands were absent gathering wild rice, hunting in the Big Woods and elsewhere, and those still in the villages were, under the circumstances, unwilling to engage in any important negotiations.

At Mendota, however, a treaty was made with some of the chiefs of the Medawakanton and Wapakooto bands providing for the purchase, on reasonable terms, of what was known as the "Half-Breed Tract," lying west of Lake Pepin, and which had been set apart for the Sioux mixed bloods by the treaty of July 15, 1830. The tract comprised about 384,000 acres of now well known and valuable country. The purchase was to be completed as soon as possible, and the money given to the mixed blood beneficiaries in lieu of the lands. The treaty was duly forwarded to Washington, but never ratified by the Senate. In 1850 the agitation for a more comprehensive treaty resulted in the important negotiations of the summer of 1851, and the subject of the Lake Pepin Half Breed Tract was put aside and soon forgotten.

At last, in the spring of 1851, President Fillmore directed that a treaty with the Sioux be made, and appointed commissioners to that end. The pressure upon him could no longer be resisted. The Territorial Legislature had repeatedly memorialized Congress, Ramsey had written, Sibley and Rice had reasoned and pleaded, and Goodhue and the other Minnesota editors had well nigh heated their types in their fervid exhortations to the na-

tional authorities to tear down the barriers and allow the eager and restless whites to grasp the wealth of the great inland empire now furnishing home and sustenance to its rightful owners. Already many settlers, as reckless of their own lives as they were regardless of the laws of their country, were squatting within the forbidden area.

The traders were especially desirous that a treaty be made. It was the practice in such negotiations to insert a provision in the treaty that the "just debts" of the Indians should be paid out of the amounts allowed them. The American Fur Company—then Pierre Chouteau, Jr., & Company—represented by Sibley and the various sub-traders claimed that the Sioux of Minnesota owed them in the aggregate nearly \$500,000 for goods they had received in past times; the accounts, in some instances, were dated twenty years previously. If a treaty were made, all of the accounts, both real and fictitious, and augmented to suit the traders' fancy, would probably be declared as "just debts" and paid out of such funds as might be allotted the Indians. That the traders, including the firm of Choteau, Jr., & Company, did all they could to have a treaty made may readily be believed.

Under a paragraph in the Indian appropriation bill of 1851, approved February 27, all Indian treaties thereafter were to be negotiated by "officers and agents" connected with the Indian department and selected by the president. The appointees were not to receive for their service in such cases any compensation in addition to their regular salaries. Previously treaties had been negotiated on the part of the government by special agents, who were generally not connected with the public service and who were paid particularly and liberally for these services.

In consideration of the great extent of country to be possibly acquired, and the importance of the treaty generally, President Fillmore appointed to conduct it, on the part of the government, two prominent officials of the Indian department. These were Governor Alexander Ramsey, ex-officio Indian commissioner for Minnesota, and Luke Lea, the national commissioner of Indian affairs. The instructions given them were in the main those of Commissioner Brown, two years before, to Ramsey and Chambers when it was designed that the treaty should then be made.

**Treaty of Traverse des Sioux.** Commissioner Lea arrived at St. Paul, on the steamboat Excelsior, June 27. On the twenty-ninth he and Governor Ramsey left Fort Snelling on the boat for Traverse des Sioux, the site of the council ground selected for the treaty with the two upper bands of Sioux, the Wahpetons and Sissetons, who occupied the country of the upper Minnesota valley. On board of the Excelsior were some beef cattle and other supplies, to be furnished the Indians during the negotiations. There were also on board about twenty-five white persons



who went up as excursionists and as sightseers and witnesses of the proceedings.

The Excelsior landed at Traverse des Sioux early on the morning of Monday, June 30. This was a well known locality. Here the Sioux, in early days, were wont to cross the Minnesota, on their way between the Cannon river country and Swan lake, and the ford bore the French equivalent for the "crossing of the Sioux." From the earliest days there had been a trading post here and in 1843 Reverend Riggs and his associates had established a mission at the site. In the summer of 1849 this station was in charge of Reverend Messrs. Robert Hopkins and Alexander G. Huggins. The missionaries had comfortable residences, and there was a frame mission house neatly painted and well furnished.

There was also at "The Traverse," as it was often called, the trading houses of Alexander Graham and Oliver Faribault, with residence cabins and other log outbuildings; there was also the old log warehouse in which the Doty treaty of 1841 had been made and signed, while scattered along the ridge to the rear were thirty or more buffalo skin tepees, occupied by Indian families belonging to Chief Red Iron's band of Sissetons. Ten miles to the northwest was the village of Chief Sleepy Eye's Little Rock band of Sissetons, numbering two hundred and fifty. The site of the Traverse, where the town was afterwards laid out, is two miles east of St. Peter, or seventy miles southwest of St. Paul.

Word had been sent to all of the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands—the Upper bands, as they were often called—that a treaty was to be held at the Traverse early in July. They were notified to be present; not only the chiefs, but the head men—the war leaders and principal orators of the band—were to participate in the deliberations. A large brush arbor was erected, under the supervision of Alexis Faily, and beneath this comfortable shade the treaty negotiations were to be held. A number of beeves were slaughtered and boxes of hard-tack opened to feed the expected visitors, while baskets of champagne and other refreshments were offered for the entertainment of the white visitors. But the arrival of the reluctant Indians was long delayed, and it was not until July 18 that the representatives of the last bands came in, very tired, very hungry and not favorable to the purpose for which the council was called. They were heartily welcomed by the designing whites and bountifully fed on fresh beef, pork and hard-tack, but were refused whisky or other spirits, the whites desiring all that for themselves.

There were present on the part of the Indians the two head chiefs and the principal sub-chiefs of the bands, as well as their head soldiers, chief speakers and prominent men of all classes. On the part of the whites were Commissioners Lea and Ramsey;

Dr. Thomas Foster, the secretary; and Alexander Faribault and Reverend S. R. Riggs, interpreters. Other prominent white spectators, some of whom acted as witnesses to the treaty, were: James M. Goodhue, editor of the *Minnesota Pioneer*, who made and published a daily report of the proceedings; Frank B. Mayer, a noted artist from Baltimore; Major Nathaniel McLean, Sioux Indian agent at Fort Snelling; Doctor Thomas S. Williamson, the missionary at Kaposia; Judge James H. Lockwood, of Prairie du Chien, who had ascended the Minnesota far above Patterson's Rapids in 1816; Richard Chute and wife, then a newly married couple from Indiana; H. H. Sibley, Colonel C. Henderson, Joseph R. Brown, W. H. Forbes, Hugh Tyler, Reverend Alexander G. Huggins, Martin McLeod, Henry Jackson, A. S. H. White, Wallace B. White, Alexis Bailly, Kenneth McKenzie, Hercules L. Dousman, Franklin Steele, F. Brown, William Hartshorn, William G. Le Duc, Joseph La Frambois, Sr., James McC. Boal, and sundry French voyageurs, traders' employes and retainers, all of whom were entertained sumptuously with delicious viands, and many with fiery spirits and rare wines at the government's expense.

While waiting for the Indians the whites diverted themselves in various ways, but chiefly in observing the Indian dances and their other customs. It was intended to formally observe the Fourth of July. Reverend Robert Hopkins, one of the local missionaries, was drowned while bathing in the Minnesota, and the intention was abandoned.

July 11 occurred the marriage of two mixed blood people, David Faribault and Nancy Winona McClure. They were a fine looking couple, attracted general admiration, and the whites gave them a pretentious wedding reception. The groom was a son of John B. Faribault, the pioneer trader, and the bride was the natural daughter of Lieutenant James McClure of the regular army, who was at one time stationed at Fort Snelling and died in Florida during the Seminole War of 1837; she had been reared by her Indian grandmother and educated and Christianized by Reverend Messrs. Riggs and Williamson.

The ceremony was performed by Alexis Bailly, the trader, who had been commissioned a justice of the peace. The wedding reception was followed by an elaborate banquet prepared by the whites, and at which there were a number of toasts presented and responses made. Referring to her marriage reception years afterwards Mrs. Faribault wrote: "I have often wondered how so much champagne got so far out on the frontier." After the wedding festivities the Sioux girls, to the number of twenty or more, had a "virgin feast," in which none but vestals of undoubted purity were allowed to participate.

The Indians, as noted, came in from time to time in no haste and evidently much opposed to parting with their lands. Nearly

all of the women and children were brought along. Chief Shakopee, of the Lower bands of the Sioux, was in attendance a great part of the time. On the tenth a band of twenty Chippewas attacked a party of six Sisseton Sioux forty miles above Lac Qui Parle and killed and scalped five of them; the sixth, a boy, escaped by running. The Sioux went out and found their tribesmen blackening in the sun; the bodies had been beheaded and loathsomely mangled. The father of two of the murdered children came into the Traverse July 15, bringing the tragic news. He took part in the treaty, but sat with his face blackened, because of his bereavement.

July 18 the council opened under the brush arbor. Governor Ramsey opened the proceedings with a short speech and was followed by Commissioner Lea, who in explanation of the desires of the white authorities made a lengthy address, with much in it about the ineffable goodness and gigantic greatness of the "Great Father" of the Indians (the President) and his unselfish desire that they sell to him all of their lands as far west at least as Lake Traverse and the Big Sioux river down to the western border of Iowa, retaining only enough land for their actual residence. The Sissetons and Wahpatons claimed the country from Traverse des Sioux westward to the line indicated and the commissioners wanted all of it. After the speeches of the commissioners, in order that their words might "sink deep into the hearts" of the Indians, the council adjourned.

The following day, Saturday, the nineteenth, the council was opened with a speech from Star Face (or "The Orphan," as the whites called him) after a long silence and apparently much reluctance to speak, and when he spoke he said simply that all his young men had not arrived, and he was very sorry that the council had opened without their presence, or that, as he expressed himself, the commissioners were "not willing to shake hands with those that are behind." He said he understood that some one had been sent to meet them on the road and turn them back, and this made him feel very bad.

Then Sleepy Eye, the old Sisseton chief, who had been one of the signers of the Prairie du Chien treaty of 1825, had visited Washington, and had his portrait painted, in 1824, rose and said:

"Fathers: Your coming and asking me for my country makes me sad; your saying that I am not able to do anything with my country makes me still more sad. The young men who are coming (of whom Star Face had spoken) are my near relatives, and I expect certainly to see them here. That is all I have to say. I am going to leave and that is the reason I spoke."

Then, turning to the other Sissetons he said: "Come; let us go away from here." Instantly there was great confusion. The Indians left the arbor and were greeted with shouts by their

brethren. There were indications that the council was at an end, and there was much excitement.

Governor Ramsey, however, knew the circumstances and necessities of the Indians who had assembled. Calmly he said to the interpreter: "Tell them that as our stock of provisions is short, and they seem indisposed to talk, there will be no further issue of provisions to them." Commissioner Lea added: "Tell them they must let us know by this evening if they really wish to treat. If we do not hear from them by that time we will go below early tomorrow morning." The council then adjourned and orders were given to get boats ready and to prepare to move in the morning.

The word that they were to be given nothing more to eat produced great consternation among the Indians. Coming, as they had, far from their homes, and solely for the benefit of the whites, they had supposed that at least they were to be furnished provisions while attending the conference, especially in view of the riotous good times that the whites were enjoying out of the expense fund. Hunger faced the Indians and their families on their long journey back to their villages. The white men were clearly saying: "Give us your land at our own terms or we will get it anyhow without a pretense of terms. We are in a hurry, do not delay us, do not wait until all your men get here; enter into this treaty as we have arranged for you to do, or take your wives and children and go hungry until you can get back home and get something to eat. It matters not to us that at our request you have come here and given up gathering food for weeks, do as we want you to or starve." Foreseeing the inevitable the Indians agreed to again go into council on the following Monday, and the officials knowing that the cause of the white man was already won ordered that food should be distributed.

On Monday, the twenty-first, the council opened at noon. The first speaker was Sleepy Eye, who sought to explain his viewpoint of the events which had transpired. He said: "On the day before yesterday, when we convened together, you were offended, I hear, at what was said. No offense or disrespect was intended. We only wanted more time to consider. The young men who made a noise were waiting to have a ball play, and not understanding English thought the council was over, and as they did so made the disturbance, for which we are very sorry."

Chief Extends-His-Head-Dress—or Big Curly Head, as the whites called him—a Sisseton sub-chief, said: "I am not speaking for myself, but for all that are here. We wish to understand what we are about before we act—to know exactly the proposition made to us by the commissioners. The other chiefs and all our people desire that you will make out for us in writing the particulars of your offer for our lands, and when we have this

paper fully made out we will sit down on the hill back there (indicating), consult among ourselves, come to a conclusion, and let you know what it is."

Commissioner Lea then quickly prepared on paper the terms desired by the United States, which had been declared verbally at a previous meeting, and which were as follows:

"The Indians will cede to the United States all their lands in the State of Iowa, as well as their lands east of a line from the Red river to Lake Traverse, and thence to the northwestern corner of Iowa. The United States will (1) set apart a suitable country for the Indians on the upper waters of the Minnesota river for their future support; will (2) pay, say, \$125,000 or \$130,000 to them to enable them to arrange their affairs preparatory to removal, to pay the expense of removal, and to subsist themselves for a year after removal—part of the above sum to be paid in money and the other part to be paid in goods and provisions; will (3) pay the Indians an annuity of \$25,000 or \$30,000 for many years—say thirty or forty years—part in money, part in goods and provisions, and part to be applied to such other beneficial objects as may be agreed upon."

The Indians deliberated over the words of these provisions and let them "sink into their hearts" for two days and nights. There was great divergence of opinion among them, the interpreters said. The majority seemed to realize that their lands were of great value to the United States. But they had no proper conception of the actual value in dollars and cents of the great domain which they were about to sell. Their idea of numbers was limited, and they seemed to think that one hundred and forty-five thousand dollars and seventy-five cents was far more money than a million dollars, because the latter was the shorter phrase and did not sound so imposing and formidable. When, therefore, the commissioners made an offer, the poor unlettered Indians did not know whether it was a fair one or not. Of course they appealed to their traders and missionaries, who understood the Dakota language, but the explanations offered hardly explained. Missionaries, traders and officials alike were determined that the land should be opened to white settlement. The work of these traders and missionaries in finally effecting the treaty was constant and very valuable to the whites. The services rendered by Reverend Riggs, one of the official interpreters, were most important. While the Indians were considering the white men's proposition, Riggs, Sibley, McLeod, Brown and Fari-bault were sent for at all hours of the day and night to explain to the various bands the provisions of the treaty and their application. The Indians, justly suspicious, would not be satisfied with the meaning of any provision until at least three white men, acting singly, had read it and interpreted it fully.

July 22, the Indians, after much deliberation, proposed certain amendments, which they said they would insist upon as a part of their treaty. These amendments were practically unimportant and the commissioners readily accepted. The treaty was then prepared and on the following day was signed by the contracting parties by Commissioners Lea and Ramsey and the chiefs and the head men of the Sisseton and Wahpaton bands of the Sioux. The ceremony of signing was somewhat impressive. After the white commissioners had affixed their names the Indians selected the one of their number who should sign first. This was Chief Eeen-yang Man-nie, or Running Walker (sometimes called "Big Gun"), chief of the Lake Traverse band of Sissetons. Boldly he stepped upon the platform and touched the goose quill pen in the hands of Dr. Foster. Next came Chief Star Face, or "The Orphan." The commissioners tried to hasten matters and to conclude the signing as soon as possible, but at one time there was a hitch in the proceedings.

Old Sleepy Eye, who had said at the outset that he was sad at heart because he had to sell his country, now arose, to the great apprehension of the whites, and begged to say a few words. He said that many of the Indians, young men and soldiers, had without consulting their chiefs, concluded that the country which they were asked to sell was worth \$3,500,000, but that the commissioners were trying to get it for a less sum. The young men had a right to be made satisfied. He also demanded other conditions:

"You will take this treaty paper home and show it to the Great Father," said Sleepy Eye, "but we want to keep a copy here so that we may look at it and see whether you tell us the truth or not—see whether you have changed it. As to paying our debts to our traders I want to pay them what is right, but I would like to know how much I owe them. If they have charged me ten dollars for a gun I want them to tell me, and if they have charged me ten dollars for a shirt I want them to tell me that. I am a poor man and have difficulty in maintaining myself, but these traders have good coats on. The prairie country in which I live has not much wood; I live along with the traders, and they are also poor, but I do not want to have to provide for them. I think it will be very hard upon us when the year becomes white, and I would like to have some provisions given me for the winter. I would like to have what is mine laid on one side; then when we have finished this business I will know how many of my relatives I can have mercy upon."

Colonel Lea assured Sleepy Eye that the money which the United States would pay for the Indian land would amount to more than the young men desired—to more than \$3,500,000. He sharply reproved Sleepy Eye and said: "We think it fortunate



for our red brothers that they have not entrusted the entire treaty to Sleepy Eye, because they would not have made so good a bargain for themselves as they have." As a matter of fact the amount named in the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux was less than half of the amount Sleepy Eye requested. Out of the sum named in the treaty the traders and cost of removal were to be paid. Of what remained the Indians were not to receive one cent—merely the interest for a certain number of years. Even some of this interest was to be used to pay white teachers and white farmers. And as a climax the payment of that part of the interest which remained was, just before the massacre, withheld and delayed under various pretenses. Even were the amount named in the Treaty of Mendota added to the amount named in the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux the total still falls far short of \$3,500,000.

Then Thunder Face, or "Limping Devil," a sub-chief of the Sissetons, whose village was on the present site of the late Gilfillan farm, in Redwood county, came forward and signed. He was followed by Sleepy Eye, who came gravely forward and touched the pen. "Big Curly" was next, but after reaching the platform he said: "Before I sign I want to say that you think the sum you will give for our land is a great deal of money, but you must well understand that the money will all go back to the whites again, and the country will remain theirs." The Blunt-Headed-Arrow, or "The Walnut," the Handsome Man, the Gray Thunder, the Good Boy, and other noted warriors and head men signed in order. Face-in-the-Middle was introduced by his father, "Big Curly," who said: "This is my son; I would like you to invest him with the medal which you have given to me by my right as chief. He is to succeed me and will keep the medal for you." Red Day next signed and was followed by Young Sleepy Eye, nephew of and successor to the old chief upon the latter's death in 1859. They were followed by old Rattling Moccasin, chief of a small band which generally lived in the neighborhood of the great bend of the Minnesota. Old Red Iron was the first Wahpaton chief to sign.

The treaty was signed by the following Sisseton and Wahpaton chiefs, head men and chief soldiers:

Chiefs—Running Walker, or "The Gun;" Star Face, or "The Orphan;" Thunder Face, or the "Lame Devil;" Sleepy Eye, Extends the Train of His Head Dress, Walking Spirit, Red Iron and Rattling (or Sounding) Moccasin.

Head Men—Blunt-Headed-Arrow, or "The Walnut;" Sounding Iron, the Flute, Flies Twice, Mildly Good, Gray Thunder, Iron Frenchman, Good Boy, Face in the Middle, Iron Horn, Red Day, Young Sleepy Eye, Goes Galloping On, Cloud Man, the Upper End, the Standard or Flag, Red Face (2) (there were two

Red Faces), Makes Elks, Big Fire, Moving Cloud, the Pursuer, the Shaking Walker, Iron Lightning, Reappearing Cloud, the Walking Harp that Sounds, the Iron that Shoots Walking and Standing Soldier.

Of the Indian signers Red Iron and Sleepy Eye were the most prominent of the chiefs. The head-man, "Goes Galloping On" (or Anah-wang Manne in Sioux), was a Christian Indian and a member of Reverend Riggs' Hazelwood Republic. He had been baptized under the name of Simon Anahwangmanne, and was commonly called Simon by the whites. He distinguished himself by his fidelity to and services for the whites during the outbreak in 1862. The Iron-That-Shoots-Walking was a Christian comrade of Simon and called by his white brethren Paul Mazah-koo-te-manne, but commonly Paul or Little Paul. He well nigh immortalized himself during the outbreak by his efforts in behalf of the white prisoners.

As soon as the signing was completed a considerable quantity of provisions and other presents, including silver medals, were presented to the Indians. These presents, which had been furnished by the government, had been piled up and displayed somewhat ostentatiously, under guard, while the treaty was under discussion. The commissioners announced that the presents would be distributed "just as soon as the treaty is signed," and the announcement was sufficient to hasten the signing, and even to remove many objections to the terms of the treaty. The members of the rank and file of the great Indian host present kept constantly calling out: "Sign! sign! and let the presents be given out."

July 23, the next morning after the treaty had been signed, Chief Star Face, or "The Orphan," and his band in their fullest and richest dress and decoration, with all the animation they could create, gave the buffalo dance and other dances and diversions for the entertainment of the white visitors. A delegation accompanied the commissioners to the river when they embarked for Fort Snelling that evening and gave them a hearty goodbye.

A similar treaty was signed at Mendota, August 5, by the lower bands of the Sioux, the Medawakantons and the Wahpakootas.

When the ceremony of signing the treaty was completed, both at Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, each Indian signer stepped to another table, where lay another paper, which he signed. This was called the traders' paper and was an agreement to pay the "just debts" of the Indians, including those present and absent, alive and dead, owing to the traders and the trading company. Some of the accounts were nearly thirty years' standing and the Indians who contracted them were dead. It was afterward claimed that the Indians in signing the "traders'



paper" thought they were merely signing a third duplicate of the treaty. The matter of payment had been discussed, but Sleepy Eye had justly demanded an itemized account, and the Indians had supposed that this request was to be complied with before they agreed to pay.

The entire territory ceded by the Sioux Indians was declared to be: "All their lands in the State of Iowa and also all their lands in the Territory of Minnesota lying east of the following line to-wit: Beginning at the junction of the Buffalo river with the Red river of the North (about twelve miles north of Moorhead, at Georgetown station, in Clay county); thence along the western bank of said Red river of the North, to the mouth of the Sioux Wood river; thence along the western bank of said Sioux Wood river to Lake Traverse; thence along the western shore of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence, in a direct line, to the juncture of Kameska lake with the Tehanka-sna-duta, or Sioux river; thence along the western bank of said river to its point of intersection with the northern line of the State of Iowa, including all islands in said rivers and lakes."

The consideration to the Upper bands was the reservation twenty miles wide—ten miles on each side of the Minnesota—and extending from the western boundary to the mouth of the Yellow Medicine and Hawk creek, and \$1,665,000, payable as follows: To enable them to settle their affairs and comply with their present just engagements, and to enable them to remove to their new reservation and subsist themselves for the first year, \$275,000. To be expended under the direction of the President, in the erection and establishment of manual labor schools, mills and blacksmith shops, opening farms, etc., \$30,000. The balance (\$1,360,000) to remain in trust with the United States and five per cent interest thereon, or \$68,000 to be paid annually for fifty years from July 1, 1852. This annuity was to be paid as follows: In cash, \$40,000; for general agricultural improvement and civilization fund, \$12,000; for goods and provisions, \$10,000, and for education, \$6,000.

The written copies of the Traverse des Sioux and the Mendota treaties, duly signed and attested, were forwarded to Washington to be acted upon by the Senate at the ensuing session of Congress. An unreasonably long delay resulted. Final action was not had until the following summer, when, on June 23, the Senate ratified both treaties with important amendments. The provisions for reservations for both the Upper and Lower bands were stricken out, and substitutes adopted, agreeing to pay 10 cents an acre for both reservations, and authorizing the President, with the assent of the Indians, to cause to be set apart other reservations, which were to be within the limits of the original great cession. The provision to pay \$150,000 to the half-bloods of the

Lower bands was also stricken out. The treaties, with the changes, came back to the Indians for final ratification and agreement to the alterations. The chiefs of the Lower bands at first objected very strenuously, but finally, on Saturday, September 4, 1852, at Governor Ramsey's residence in St. Paul, they signed the amended articles, and the following Monday the chiefs and head men of the upper bands affixed their marks. As amended, the treaties were proclaimed by President Fillmore, February 24, 1853. The Indians were allowed to remain in their old villages, or, if they preferred, to occupy their reservations as originally designated, until the President selected their new homes. That selection was never made, and the original reservations were finally allowed them, Congress on July 31, 1854, having passed an act by which the original provisions remained in force.

**The Ramsey Investigation of 1853.** During the greater part of the year 1853 public attention in Minnesota and elsewhere in the country was directed to an official investigation of the conduct of ex-Governor Ramsey in connection with the payment to the representative of the traders of money to which the Indians supposed themselves entitled under the treaties of 1851. The Indians protested against paying any of their money in discharge of their debts to the traders. They had at both treaties signed a paper providing for the payment of these debts, but subsequently claimed that the nature of the "traders' paper" they had signed was misrepresented to them as merely another copy of the treaty.

At Traverse des Sioux the Indians' protest against paying the traders took the form of menace and violence on the part of Chief Red Iron and his band, and quiet was secured only by the soldiers present through the seizing and imprisoning of Red Iron. But Governor Ramsey was firm in his purpose that the traders should be paid. At Traverse des Sioux he paid a representative of the traders \$210,000 which, he said, "paid \$431,735.78 of Indian indebtedness;" at Mendota he paid a representative of the traders \$70,000, which, he said, "according to the traders' books of account paid \$129,885.10 of indebtedness."

In December, 1852, charges of conspiracy with H. H. Sibley, Franklin Steele and others to defraud the Indians; that he had made unlawful use of the public funds by depositing them in a private bank and exchanging government gold for the bills of that bank; that he had been guilty of tyrannical conduct toward the Indians in connection with the payment of the sums due them, were made against Governor Ramsey. The authors of the charges were Madison Sweetzer, of Traverse des Sioux, and Colonel D. A. Robertson, of St. Paul. Sweetzer was a trader, who had rather recently located at Traverse des Sioux, and was connected with a rival company to that of Pierre Choteau, Jr., &

Company, the corporation to which Sibley, Steele and the others charged with conspiracy belonged. Colonel Robertson was the editor of the Minnesota Democrat, which was the organ of the faction controlled by H. M. Rice, then the opponent of Sibley and Ramsey.

The allegations against Governor Ramsey were, that he had paid the traders various sums of money without the right to do so, and that for so doing he had been paid by the beneficiaries, and thus, in effect, had been bribed to violate the law and his duty.

At the request of Mr. Sibley, then the delegate in Congress, Senator Gwin of California, secured the passage of a Senate resolution (April 5, 1853), ordering the investigation of the charges against the ex-governor. At the same time the governor's accounts as paymaster under the treaties were held up until the investigation should be concluded. President Pierce appointed Richard M. Young, of Ohio, and Governor Willis A. Gorman, of Minnesota, commissioners to investigate, during which testimony was given by Madison Sweetzer, Dr. Charles Wolf Borup and Joseph A. Sire.

The investigation and the taking of testimony began at St. Paul July 6, and was concluded October 7, 1853. A large number of witnesses were examined—whites, Indians and mixed bloods. Some of the most prominent citizens of the Territory testified—Sibley, Brown, McLeod, Steele, Forbes and Alexander Faribault, the traders; Reverends Riggs and Williamson, of the missionaries; Dr. Thomas Foster, Captain W. B. Dodd, Henry Jackson and David Olmsted, of the citizens; Wabasha, Little Crow, Wacouta, Red Iron, Grey Iron, Shakopee, the Star and Cloud Man, of the Indians; Captain James Monroe, of the army; Indian Agent Nathaniel McLean, and many others.

Commissioner Young made an official report of the investigation to the commissioner of Indian affairs, which bears date December 20, 1853. This report criticised the conduct of Governor Ramsey in depositing the government funds in a private bank and in paying out large amounts in bills and drafts on that bank to beneficiaries under the treaty. It also contained some strictures on various other features of the governor's conduct. It did not, however, find him guilty of conspiring with the traders, nor of being paid by the traders for the part he took in bringing about the signing of the treaties. February 24, 1854, Senator James Cooper, of Pennsylvania, a member of the committee on Indian affairs, presented a report to the effect that Governor Ramsey had been acquitted by the committee of all impropriety of conduct, and that one of the complainants, Colonel D. A. Robertson, had retracted his charges. The resolution was considered by unanimous consent and the committee discharged.

As a matter of fact, the guilt, if guilt there was, was shared by all. The whites desired that Minnesota be opened to settlement, the traders demanded vast sums for the goods which they had already sold to the Indians on credit, the only way the Indians could be persuaded to sign the treaties was through the influence of the traders, and the traders would not consent to serve unless the Indians were compelled to sign the "traders' paper." Probably the Indians had no idea what they were doing when they signed the paper, and even of the treaty which they knowingly signed they had no adequate conception, and the white men who negotiated it were well aware that if the Indians realized the truth about what they were doing they would never sign even the treaty, to say nothing of the "traders' paper." It was not a crime of individuals, it was merely one of the steps by which one race through guile, trickery and force of numbers and superiority of war equipment, was supplanting another and more primitive people.

**Treaty of 1858.** June 19, 1858, the government made a treaty with certain selected chiefs and braves of the Medawakanton, Wahpakoota, Sisseton and Wahpaton bands of Sioux for the cession of their reservation, ten miles in width, on the north side of the Minnesota, and extending from the west line of the State to Little Rock creek, four miles east of Fort Ridgely. The area purchased amounted to about 8,000,000 acres, and the price to be paid was subsequently (but not until June 27, 1860) fixed by the Senate at thirty cents an acre. The Indians agreed that, in the aggregate for the four bands, the sum of \$140,000 might be taken from the purchase price to pay their debts owing to the traders, or, as the treaty expressed it, "to satisfy their just debts and obligations."

The influx of white settlers into the country of the Minnesota valley, where were some of the finest lands in the State, had been very large after the Indian title to the greater part of the country had been extinguished. The magnificent domain comprising a great part of what are now the southern portions of Renville, Chippewa, Swift and Big Stone counties was looked upon with covetous eyes by the homeseekers. The waves of immigration beat against the legal barrier which surrounded this fine fertile expanse, and there was a great clamor that the barriers be removed. "The country is too good for the Indian," said the whites. The Indians themselves had not to any considerable extent occupied the north half of their reservation. Their villages and nearly all of their tepees—except about Big Stone lake—were situated in the south half. But a majority of the Indians, owing to their previous experiences, were opposed to selling any portion of their reserve. Some of the head chiefs and the headmen, however, were willing to sell the north side

strip if they could get a good price for it. Major Joseph R. Brown, then the Sioux agent, consulted with them and at last a number of them agreed to accompany him to Washington to make a treaty. Not all of the sub-chiefs nor all of the head-men could be induced to go; some of them were opposed to the sale of the land, and others were afraid of the results of a hostile public sentiment. It required all of Major Brown's great influence with the Sioux to effect the important negotiations. The Indians went to Washington in something like imposing array. Major Brown gave high silk hats and other articles of the white man's adornment to those who would wear them, and there accompanied the party a retinue of whites and mixed bloods from Minnesota. A. J. Campbell (commonly called "Joe" Campbell) was the official interpreter, but assisting him was the shrewd old Scotchman, Andrew Robertson, and his mixed blood son, Thomas A. Robertson. Other members of the party were: Nathaniel R. Brown, John Dowling, Charlie Crawford and James R. Roche.

On behalf of the United States the treaty was signed by Charles E. Mix, then commissioner of Indian affairs. Sisseton and Wahpaton Indians who signed it were these:

Sissetons and Wahpatons—Chiefs, Red Iron, Scarlet Plume, and Extends His Train. Headmen: Stumpy Horn, The Planter, Walks On Iron, Paul Mah-zah-koo-te-Manne, John Other Day, and Strong Voiced Pipe.

The small number of dignitaries named assumed to act for the entire Sioux of Minnesota. It is not a matter of surprise that there was dissatisfaction among the bands on account of the limited list of their representatives on so important an occasion.

After the treaty had been signed the Indians were sumptuously entertained, given broadcloth suits, high hats, and patent leather shoes to wear, and had a grand good time, all at the expense of the Government. They were photographed and taken to the theatres, and allowed to return home by way of Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. When they returned to Minnesota their tales of the magnificence and strength of the whites were listened to by their people with interest and in some measure reconciled them to what had been done.

The opening of the "north ten-mile strip," as the land was called, was of great benefit to the development of Minnesota, at least for a time. Settlers came in considerable numbers and the country was improving rapidly when the Civil War interrupted the peaceful course of events. Then in 1862 came the Sioux outbreak and all of the civilization on the ten-mile strip was pushed off by a great wave of blood and fire.

**Agencies and Forts.** The reservations as outlined in the treaties, embraced a tract of land twenty miles wide, ten miles

on each side of the Minnesota, extending from the mouth of the Little Rock (Mud creek) westward to Lake Traverse. The dividing line between the Upper and Lower reservations was a line drawn north and south through the mouth of Hawk creek. Thus Redwood county for a ten-mile strip along the Minnesota, was in the Lower reservation.

The removal of the Indians to their reservations was intermittent, interrupted and extended over a period of several years.

With the establishment of the new Indian reserve and the removal of the Indians thereto, came the necessity of a new military post in Minnesota. The concentration of so many Indians upon an area really small in comparison with the country, a part of which they had occupied, and all of which they claimed to own, rendered the situation important and worthy of attention. A military post was necessary to preserve order should the Indians become dissatisfied. There were to be two Indian agencies for the Indians on the reservations. The Upper agency, for the Sissetons and Wahpatons, was established near the mouth of the Yellow Medicine and the Lower, for the Medawanton and Wahpakoota bands, was placed about six miles east of the mouth of the Redwood. Both agencies were on the south bank of the Minnesota river.

The matter of the new military post was called to the attention of C. M. Conrad, then secretary of war, and General Winfield Scott, then commanding the regular army, by Delegate Henry H. Sibley.

General Scott concurred in Sibley's recommendation, and the secretary of war approved it, and issued the necessary order. In the fall of 1852 Captain Napoleon Jackson Tecumseh Dana, then of the quartermaster's department, and Colonel Francis Lee, then in command at Fort Snelling, were ordered to select a suitable site for the new fort, "on the St. Peter's river, above the mouth of the Blue Earth."

In the latter part of November, with an escort of dragoons from Fort Snelling and after a three-days' march in the snow, the officers reached Laframboise's trading post, at the Little Rock. Five miles above the Rock, on the crest of the high bluff on the north side of the Minnesota, the site was fixed.

The new post was named Fort Ridgely, in honor of Major Randolph Ridgely, a gallant officer of the regular army from Maryland, who died of injuries received at the battle of Monterey.

When Fort Ridgely was established Fort Riley, Kansas, was ordered built. At the same time Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Fort Scott, Kansas, were ordered discontinued and broken up.

Fort Ridgely took the place of Fort Dodge, and Fort Riley was substituted for Fort Scott. The first garrison at Ridgely

was composed of Companies C and K of the Sixth Infantry, and the first commander was Captain James Monroe, of Company K. Companies C and K went up on the steamboat West Newton from Fort Snelling, but later were joined by Company E, which marched across the country from Fort Dodge, and arrived in June, 1853, when work on the buildings was begun. When Company E arrived its captain, Brevet Major Samuel Woods, previously well identified with Minnesota history, took command by virtue of his rank. The work of constructing the fort was in charge of Captain Dana. The story of the Lower Agency is told elsewhere.

**Authority and References.** This chapter is a somewhat free compilation from articles by Return I. Holcombe in "Minnesota in Three Centuries," and by P. M. Magnusson in the "History of Stearns County." These articles were in turn compiled from other sources. To this material, the editor of this work has added numerous notes and facts, gathered chiefly from "The Aborigines of Minnesota," and from Part 2, of the "Eighteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology," 1896-97. Information has also been gathered from the "History of the Sioux Massacre," by Charles S. Bryant, and contained in the History of the Minnesota Valley, 1882. The article in Minnesota Valley book was in turn compiled from the "History of the Minnesota Indian Massacre," by Charles S. Bryant and Abel B. Murch, 1863.

## CHAPTER VI.

### CLAIM OF TITLE.

The history of the early governmental jurisdiction of the valley of the Minnesota river is formulated with some difficulty, as, prior to the nineteenth century, the interior of the country was so little known and the maps upon which claims and grants were founded were so meager, as well as incorrect and unreliable, that descriptions of boundaries and locations as given in the early treaties are vague in the extreme, and very difficult of identification with present-day lines and locations.

The Hon. J. V. Brower, a scholarly authority upon this subject, says ("The Mississippi River and Its Sources"): "Spain, by virtue of the discoveries of Columbus and others, confirmed to her by papal grant (that of Alexander VI, May 4, 1493), may be said to have been the first European owner of the entire valley of the Mississippi, but she never used this claim as a ground for taking formal possession of this part of her domains other than incidentally involved in De Soto's doings. The feeble ob-



jections which she made in the next two centuries after the discovery to other nations exploring and settling North America were successfully overcome by the force of accomplished facts. The name of Florida, now so limited in its application, was first applied by the Spaniards to the greater part of the eastern half of North America, commencing at the Gulf of Mexico and proceeding northward indefinitely. This expansiveness of geographical view was paralleled later by the definition of a New France of still greater extent, which practically included all the continent.

“L’Escarbot, in his history of New France, written in 1617, says, in reference to this: ‘Thus our Canada has for its limits on the west side all the lands as far as the sea called the Pacific, on this side of the Tropic of Cancer; on the south the islands of the Atlantic sea in the direction of Cuba and the Spanish land; on the east and the northern sea which bathes New France; and on the north the land said to be unknown, toward the icy sea as far as the arctic pole.’

“Judging also by the various grants to individuals, noble and otherwise, and ‘companies,’ which gave away the country in latitudinal strips extending from the Atlantic westward, the English were not far behind the Spaniards and French in this kind of effrontery. As English colonists never settled on the Mississippi in pursuance of such grants, and never performed any acts of authority there, such shadowy sovereignties may be disregarded here, in spite of the fact that it was considered necessary, many years later, for various states concerned to convey to the United States their more or less conflicting claims to territory which lay far to the westward of their own actual borders.

“Thus, in the most arbitrary manner, did the Mississippi river, though yet unknown, become the property, successively, of the Iberian, Gaulish and Anglo-Saxon races—of three peoples who, in later times, by diplomacy and force of arms, struggled for an actual occupancy. Practically, however, the upper Mississippi valley may be considered as having been in the first place Canadian soil, for it was Frenchmen from Canada who first visited it and traded with its various native inhabitants. The further prosecution of his discoveries by La Salle, in 1682, extended Canada as a French possession to the Gulf of Mexico, though he did not use the name of Canada nor yet that of New France. He preferred to call the entire country watered by the Mississippi river and its tributaries, from its uttermost source to its mouth, by the new name he had already invented for the purpose—Louisiana. The names of Canada and New France had been indifferently used to express about the same extent of territory, but the name of Louisiana now came to supersede them in being applied to the conjectural regions of the West. Al-

though La Salle has applied the latter expression to the entire valley of the Mississippi, it was not generally used in that sense after his time; the upper part of the region was called Canada, and the lower Louisiana; but the actual dividing line between the two provinces was not absolutely established, and their names and boundaries were variously indicated on published maps. Speaking generally, the Canada of the eighteenth century included the Great Lakes and the country drained by their tributaries; the northern one-fourth of the present state of Illinois—that is, as much as lies north of the mouth of the Rock river; all the regions lying north of the northern watershed of the Missouri, and finally the valley of the upper Missouri itself.” This would include Redwood county.

But it is now necessary to go back two centuries previous and consider the various explorations of the Mississippi upon which were based the claims of the European monarchs. Possibly the mouth of the Mississippi had been reached by Spaniards previous to 1541, possibly Hibernian missionaries as early as the middle of the sixth century, or Welsh emigrants (Madoc), about 1170, discovered North America by way of the Gulf of Mexico, but historians gave to Fernando de Soto and his band of adventurers the credit of having been the first white men to actually view the Mississippi on its course through the interior of the continent and of being the first ones to actually traverse its waters. De Soto sighted the Mississippi in May, 1541, at the head of an expedition in search of gold and precious stones. In the following spring, weary, with hope long deferred, and worn out with his adventures, De Soto fell a victim to disease and died May 21, 1541. His followers, greatly reduced in number by sickness, after wandering about in a vain searching, built three small vessels and descended to the mouth of the Mississippi, being the first white men to reach the outlet of that great river from the interior. However, they were too weary and discouraged to lay claim to the country, and took no notes of the region through which they passed.

In 1554 James Cartier, a Frenchman, discovered the St. Lawrence, and explored it as far as the present site of Quebec. The next year he ascended the river to Mont Real, the lofty hill for which Montreal was named. Thereafter all the country drained by the St. Lawrence was claimed by the French. Many years later the King of France granted the “basin of the St. Lawrence and all the rivers flowing through it to the sea,” to a company, whose leader was Champlain, the founder of Quebec, which became the capital of New France, whose then unexplored territory stretched westward to well within the boundaries of what is now Minnesota. In 1613-15 Champlain explored the Ottawa river, and the Georgian bay to Lake Huron, and missions were estab-

lished in the Huron country. Missionaries and fur traders were the most active explorers of the new possessions. They followed the shores of the Great Lakes and then penetrated further and further into the wilderness. As they went they tried to make friends of the red men, established trading posts and raised the Christian cross. In 1641 Jogues and Raymbault, Jesuits, after a long and perilous voyage in frail canoes and bateaux, reached the Sault Ste. Marie, where they heard of a large river, the Mishis-ip-e, flowing southward to the sea, and of a powerful Indian tribe dwelling near its headwaters. Stories of vast fertile plains, of numberless streams, of herds of buffalo, and of many people, in regions far to the west and south, roused missionaries and traders anew, and the voyages and trips of the explorers became more frequent.

In 1659-60 Radisson and Grosseilliers, proceeding westward from Lake Superior, possibly entered what is now Minnesota. They spent some time in the "forty villages of the Dakotas," possibly in the vicinity of Mille Laes, and were, it has been contended, the first white men to set foot on the soil of this state. The contention that these adventurers spent a part of the years 1655-56 on Prairie Island, in the Mississippi just above Red Wing is disputed by some historians, but still forms an interesting subject for study and conjecture.

Some writers also claim that the Frenchman, Sieur Nicollet, who should not be confused with the Nicollet of a later date, reached the Mississippi in 1639.

Rene Menard, a Jesuit missionary, reached the Mississippi in 1661 by way of Wisconsin. This was twelve years prior to its discovery by Marquette and Joliet, and to Menard historians in general give the honor of the discovery of the upper waters of the great river. Menard ascended the Mississippi to the mouth of the Black river, Wisconsin, and was lost in a forest near the source of that stream while attempting to carry the gospel to the Hurons. His sole companion "called him and sought him, but he made no reply and could not be found." Some years later his camp kettle, robe and prayer book were seen in the possession of the Indians.

In the summer of 1663 the intelligence of the fate of Menard reached Quebec, and on August 8, 1665, Father Claude Allouez, who had anxiously waited two years for the means of conveyance, embarked for Lake Superior with a party of French traders and Indians. He visited the Minnesota shores of Lake Superior in the fall of 1665, established the Mission of the Holy Spirit at La Pointe, now in Wisconsin, and it is said "was the first to write 'Messipi,' the name of the great river of the Sioux country," as he heard it pronounced by the Chippewas, or rather as it sounded to his ears.

May 13, 1673, Jaques Marquette and Louis Joliet, the former a priest and the latter the commander of the expedition, set out with five assistants, and on June 17 of the same year reached the Mississippi at the present site of Prairie du Chien, thence continuing down the river as far as the mouth of the Illinois, which they ascended, subsequently reaching the lakes.

In 1678, the Sieur De Luth, Daniel Graysolon, under commission from the governor of Canada, set out from Quebec, to explore the country west of the Lake Superior region. He was to take possession of it in the name of the king of France, and secure the trade of the native tribes. De Luth entered Minnesota in 1679, reaching the great Sioux village of Kathio at Mille Laes, on July 2. "On that day," he says, "I had the honor to plant His Majesty's arms where a Frenchman never before had been."

In 1680 Accault planted the French royal arms near the source of the Mississippi.

La Salle, however, was the first to lay claim to the entire valley in the name of his sovereign. After achieving perpetual fame by the discovery of the Ohio river (1670-71), he conceived the plan of reaching the Pacific by way of the Northern Mississippi, at that time unexplored and supposed to be a waterway connecting the two oceans. Frontenac, then governor-general of Canada, favored the plan, as did the king of France. Accordingly, gathering a company of Frenchmen, he pursued his way through the lakes, made a portage to the Illinois river, and, January 4, 1680, reached what is now Lake Peoria, in Illinois. From there, in February, he sent Hennepin and two companions to explore the upper Mississippi. During this voyage Hennepin and the men accompanying him were taken by the Indians as far north as Mille Laes. He also discovered St. Anthony Falls. Needing reinforcements, La Salle again returned to Canada. In January, 1682, with a band of followers, he started on his third and greatest expedition. February 6 they reached the Mississippi by way of Lake Michigan and the Illinois river, and March 6 discovered the three great passages by which the river discharges its waters into the Gulf. Two days later they reascended the river a short distance, to find a high spot out of the reach of inundations, and there erected a column and planted a cross, proclaiming with due ceremony the authority of the king of France. Thus did the whole Mississippi valley pass under the nominal sovereignty of the French monarchs.

The first definite claim to the upper Mississippi is embodied in a paper, still preserved, in the colonial archives of France, entitled "The record of the taking possession, in his majesty's name, of the Bay des Puants (Green bay), of the lake and rivers of the Outagamis and Maskoutins (Fox river and Lake Winne-

bago), of the river Ouiskonche (Wisconsin), and that of the Mississippi, the country of the Nadouesieux (the Sioux or Dakota Indians), the rivers St. Croix and St. Pierre (Minnesota), and other places more remote, May 8, 1689." (F. B. O'Callahan's translation in 1855, published in Vol. 9, page 418, "Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York.") This claim was made by Perrot, and the proclamation is supposed to have been issued from Fort St. Antonie on the northeastern shore of Lake Pepin, about six miles from its mouth.

The previous proclamations of St. Lusson in 1671 at the outlet of Lake Superior, of De Luth, in 1679, at the west end of the same lake and at Mille Lacs, strengthened the French claims of sovereignty.

For over eight decades thereafter, the claims of France were, tacitly at least, recognized in Europe. In 1763 there came a change. Of this change A. N. Winchell (in Vol. 10, "Minnesota Historical Society Collections") writes: "The present eastern boundary of Minnesota, in part (that is so far as the Mississippi now forms its eastern boundary), has a history beginning at a very early date. In 1763, at the end of that long struggle during which England passed many a mile post in her race for world empire, while France lost nearly as much as Britain gained—that struggle, called in America, the French and Indian War—the Mississippi river became an international boundary. The articles of the definite treaty of peace were signed at Paris, on February 10, 1763. The seventh article made the Mississippi, from its source to about the 31st degree of north latitude, the boundary between the English colonies on this continent and the French Louisiana. The text of the article is as follows (Published in the "Gentleman's Magazine," Vol. 33, pages 121-126, March, 1763):

"VII. In order to re-establish peace on solid and durable foundations, and to remove forever all subjects of dispute to the limits of the British and French Territories on the continent of America; that for the future the confines between the domains of his Britannic majesty and those of his most Christian majesty (the king of France) in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn down the middle of the river Mississippi, from its source to the river Iberville, and from thence, by a line drawn along the middle of this river, and the Lake Maurepas and Pontchartrain, to the sea." The boundary from the source of the river farther north, or west, or in any direction, was not given; it was evidently supposed that it would be of no importance for many centuries at least.

This seventh article of the definite treaty was identical with the sixth article in the preliminary treaty of peace signed by England, Spain and France, at Fontainebleau, November 3, 1762.

On that same day, November 3, 1762, the French and Spanish representatives had signed another act by which the French king "ceded to his cousin of Spain, and his successors forever \* \* \* all the country known by the name of Louisiana, including New Orleans and the island on which that city is situated." This agreement was kept secret, but when the definite treaty was signed at Paris the following year, this secret pact went into effect, and Spain at once became the possessor of the area described.

At the close of the Revolutionary War, the territory east of the Mississippi and north of the 31st parallel passed under the jurisdiction of the United States. By the definite treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain, ratified at Paris, September 3, 1783, a part of the northern boundary of the United States, and the western boundary thereof was established as follows: Commencing at the most northwestern point of the Lake of the Woods, and from thence on a due course west to the Mississippi river (the Mississippi at that time was thought to extend into what is now Canada), thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of said Mississippi river until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the 31st degree of north latitude. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 8, page 82.)

In 1800, by the secret treaty of San (or Saint) Ildefonso (signed October 1), Spain receded the indefinite tract west of the Mississippi to France, which nation did not, however, take formal possession until three years later, when the formality was made necessary in order that the tract might be ceded to the United States. Napoleon, for France, sold the tract to the United States, April 30, 1803. The region comprehended in the "Louisiana Purchase," as this area was called, included all the country west of the Mississippi, except those portions west of the Rocky mountains actually occupied by Spain, and extended as far north as the British territory.

By an act of congress, approved October 31, 1803, the president of the United States was authorized to take possession of this territory, the act providing that "all the military, civil, and judicial powers exercised by the officers of the existing government, shall be vested in such person or persons, and shall be exercised in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct." (United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 245.)

December 20, 1803, Louisiana was formally turned over to the United States at New Orleans, by M. Laussat, the civil agent of France, who a few days previous (November 30) had received a formal transfer from the representatives of Spain. Redwood county was included in the Louisiana purchase.

It will therefore be seen that the territorial claim of title



to Redwood county was first embraced in the paper grant to Spain, May 4, 1493. It was subsequently included in the indefinite claims made by Spain to lands north and northwest of her settlements in Mexico, Florida and the West Indies; by the English to lands west of their Atlantic coast settlements, and by the French to lands south, west and southwest of their Canadian settlements. The first definite claim to territory now embracing Redwood county was made by La Salle at the mouth of the Mississippi, March 8, 1682, in the name of the king of France, and the second (still more definite) by Perrot, not far from the present site of Winona, May 8, 1689. This was also a French claim. France remained in tacit authority until February 10, 1763, when, upon England's acknowledging the French authority to lands west of the Mississippi, France, by a previous secret agreement, turned her authority over to Spain. October 1, 1800, Spain ceded the tract to France, but France did not take formal possession until November 30, 1803, and almost immediately, December 20, 1803, turned it over to the United States, the Americans having purchased it from Napoleon April 30 of that year.

March 26, 1804, the area that is now Redwood county was included in the widely spreading area of the Louisiana district, and so remained until March 3, 1805. From March 3, 1805, to June 4, 1812, it was a part of Louisiana territory. From June 4, 1812, until August 10, 1820, it was a part of Missouri territory. From August 10, 1821, until June 28, 1834, it was outside the pale of all organized government, except that congress had general jurisdiction. From June 28, 1834, to April 20, 1836, it was a part of Michigan territory. From April 20, 1836, to June 12, 1838, it was a part of Wisconsin territory. From June 12, 1838, to December 28, 1846, it was a part of the territory of Iowa. The admission of Iowa as a state left what is now Redwood county without territorial affiliation until March 3, 1849, when Minnesota was admitted as a territory. In the meantime, however, important events were transpiring.

December 18, 1846, Morgan L. Martin, delegate for Wisconsin territory, gave notice to the house of representatives that at an early day he would ask leave to introduce a bill establishing a territorial government of Minnesota. The name which was the Sioux term for what was then the river St. Peter (Pierre) and has now become the official designation was, it is believed, applied to the proposed territory at the suggestion of Joseph R. Brown. It is a composite word and while there is some difference of opinion as to the exact meaning, the most generally accepted is "sky tinted water," which is a very satisfactory and poetical even if not accurate interpretation. The real meaning is blar water or cloudy water or milky water, the river at cer-



tain stages in the early days having the appearance of what we now call a "mackerel sky." The bill was introduced in the lower house on December 23, 1846, by Mr. Martin. This bill was left to the committee on territories of which Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois was the chairman. During its consideration by congress, the bill underwent various changes. After reported back to the house the name Minnesota had been changed by Mr. Douglas to Itasca! a word formed by taking syllables from the Latin words *veritas caput*, meaning the true head. Mr. Martin immediately moved that the name Minnesota be placed in the bill in place of Itasca. Congressman Winthrop proposed the name Chippewa, another from the word Ojibway, a tribe of Indians then inhabiting the northern part of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Congressman Thompson of Mississippi was opposed to all Indian names and wished the new territory named for Andrew Jackson. Congressman Houston of Delaware spoke strongly in favor of giving to the new territory the name of Washington. Of these proposed names only one, Washington, has been preserved as the name of a state or territory. After many months, counter motions and amendments, Minnesota was retained in the bill which with a minor change passed the house. In the senate it was rejected.

A second attempt was made two years later. January 10, 1848, Stephen A. Douglas, who having in the meantime been elected to the United States Senate from Illinois, became chairman of the committee on territories in that body as he had previously been in the house, gave due notice to the senate that "at a future day" he would introduce a bill to establish the territory of Minnesota. He brought in the bill February 23. It was several times read, was amended, referred to committee and discussed, but congress adjourned August 14 without taking ultimate action on the proposition.

In the meantime Wisconsin was admitted to the Union May 29, 1848, and the western half of what was then St. Croix county was left outside the new state. The settled portions of the area thus cut off from Wisconsin by its admission to statehood privileges were in the southern part of the peninsula of land lying between the Mississippi and the St. Croix.

The people of this area were now confronted with a serious problem. As residents of the territory of Wisconsin they had enjoyed the privileges of citizenship in the United States. By the creation of the state of Wisconsin they were disfranchised and left without the benefits of organized government. Thus, Stillwater, which had been the governmental seat of a growing county (St. Croix), was left outside the pale of organized law. Legal minds disagreed on the question of whether the minor civil officers, such as justices of the peace, created under the

territorial organization, were still qualified to exercise the authority of their positions. At a meeting held at St. Paul, in July, 1848, the citizens of that (then) village considered the question of the formation of a new territory. August 5 a meeting of citizens of the area west of the St. Croix was held at Stillwater, and it was decided to call a general convention at that place, August 26, 1848, for a three-fold purpose: 1—To elect a territorial delegate to congress. 2—To organize a territory with a name other than Wisconsin. 3—To determine whether the laws and organization of the old territory of Wisconsin were still in effect now that a part of that territory was organized as a state. In the call for this meeting, the signers called themselves, "We, the undersigned citizens of Minnesota territory." The meeting was held pursuant to the call. Action was taken in regard to the first proposition by the election of H. H. Sibley, who was authorized to proceed to Washington and use such efforts as were in his power to secure the organization of the territory of Minnesota. In regard to the second proposition, a memorial was addressed to the President of the United States, stating the reasons why the organization of Minnesota territory was necessary. The third proposition presented technical points worthy of the attention of the wisest legal minds. The state of Wisconsin had been organized, but the territory of Wisconsin had not been abolished. Was not, therefore, the territory still in existence, and did not its organization and its laws still prevail in the part of the territory that had not been included in the state? A letter from James Buchanan, then secretary of state of the United States, expressed this view in a letter. If the territorial government was in existence would it not give the residents thereof a better standing before the nation in their desire to become Minnesota territory? Might not this technicality give the delegate a seat in congress when otherwise he must, as simply the representative of an unorganized area, make his requests in the lobby and to the individual members? John Catlin, who had been secretary of the territory of Wisconsin before the organization of that state, declared that the territory still existed in the area not included in the organized state and that he was the acting governor, Territorial Governor Henry Dodge having been elected United States Senator. Accordingly, the people of the cut-off portion organized as the "Territory of Wisconsin," and named a day for the election of a delegate, John H. Tweedy, the territorial delegate from Wisconsin, having gone through the form of resigning in order to make the new move possible. In the closely contested election held October 30, 1848, Sibley won out against Henry M. Rice and accordingly made his way to Washington, technically from the "Territory of Wisconsin," actually as a representative of the proposed terri-

tory of Minnesota. As a matter of fact, indeed, Sibley, living at Mendota, had ceased to be a citizen of the territory of Wisconsin in 1838, when Iowa territory was created, and was a resident of the part of Iowa territory which the organization of the state of Iowa had left without a government, rather than of that territory in question (between the Mississippi and the St. Croix) which the admission of Wisconsin as a state had left without a government. Sibley was, however, after much opposition, admitted to congress and given a seat January 15, 1849, but not without much discussion as to whether excluded territory was entitled to continued political existence and representation, after a state has been created out of part of a territory.

Mr. Sibley devoted himself assiduously to securing the passage in the United States senate of the bill for the creation of the territory of Minnesota which had been introduced at the previous session and met with gratifying success. His efforts in the house of representatives were less satisfactory, political questions entering largely into the matter, and it was not until March 3, 1849, the very last day of the session—and then only through the strenuous work of Senator Stephen A. Douglas, that he succeeded in securing the passage of the bill. This was finally done under suspension of the rules, the previous opposition having been unexpectedly withdrawn.

As passed the act read as follows: "Be it enacted, \* \* \* That from and after the passage of this act, all that part of the territory of the United States which lies within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning in the Mississippi river at a point where the line of 43° and 30' of north latitude crosses the same, thence running due west on said line, which is the northern boundary of the state of Iowa, to the northwest corner of the said state of Iowa; thence southerly along the western boundary of said state to the point where said boundary strikes the Missouri river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river to the mouth of the White Earth river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the White Earth river to the boundary line between the possessions of the United States and Great Britain; thence east and south of east along the boundary line and between the possession of the United States and Great Britain to Lake Superior; thence in a straight line to the northernmost point of the state of Wisconsin, in Lake Superior; thence along the western boundary of the state of Wisconsin to the Mississippi river; thence down the main channel of said river to the place of beginning, and the same is hereby erected into a temporary government by the name of the territory of Minnesota."

This being before the days of railroads and telegraphs in the West, the good news did not reach St. Paul until thirty-seven

days afterwards, when it was brought by the first steamer coming from the lower river.

At the time of the organization of Minnesota as a territory the country was described as being "little more than a wilderness." That which lay west of the Mississippi river, from the Iowa line to Lake Itasca, had not yet been ceded by the Indians and was unoccupied by the whites save in a very few instances. On the east side, in this more immediate vicinity, were trading posts with the cabins of a few employes at Sauk Rapids and Crow Wing. Away up at Pembina was the largest town or settlement within the boundaries of the new territory, where were nearly a thousand people, a large majority of whom were "Metis" or mixed bloods, French Crees or French Chippewas.

In "Minnesota in Three Centuries" attention is called to the fact that at this time the east side of the Mississippi, as far north as Crow Wing, was being settled here and there by people who had come to the country when it had been announced that the territory was organized. The settlers were almost entirely from the Northern States, many being from New England. The fact that the state which would succeed the territory would be a free state, without slavery in any form, made it certain that the first settlers would be non-slaveholders, with but few people from the Southern States interested or in sympathy with Southern ideas.

The people of the territory of Minnesota were not long content with a territorial government. In the words of A. N. Winchell, "December 24, 1856, the delegate from the territory of Minnesota introduced a bill to authorize the people of that territory to form a constitution and state government. The bill limited the proposed state on the west by the Red River of the North and the Big Sioux river. It was referred to the committee on territories, of which Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, was then chairman. January 31, 1867, the chairman reported a substitute, which differed from the original bill in no essential respect except in regard to the western boundary. The change there consisted in adopting a line through Traverse and Big Stone lakes, due south from the latter to the Iowa line. The altered boundary cut off a narrow strip of territory, estimated by Mr. Grow to contain between five and six hundred square miles. Today the strip contains such towns as Sioux Falls, Watertown and Brookings. The substitute had a stormy voyage through congress, especially in the senate, but finally completed the trip on February 25, 1857."

The enabling act, as passed and approved February 26, 1857, defined the boundaries of Minnesota as follows: "Be it enacted • • • That the inhabitants of that portion of the territory of Minnesota which is embraced within the following limits, to-wit:

Beginning at the point in the center of the main channel of the Red River of the North, where the boundary line between the United States and the British possessions crosses the same; thence up the main channel of said river to that of Bois des Sioux river; thence (up) the main channel of said river to Lake Travers; then up the center of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence in a direct line to the head of Big Stone lake; thence through its center to its outlet; thence by a due south line to the north line of the state of Iowa; thence east along the northern boundary of said state to the main channel of the Mississippi river; thence up the main channel of said river and following the boundary line of the state of Wisconsin, until the same intersects the St. Louis river; thence down said river to and through Lake Superior, on the boundary line of Wisconsin and Michigan, until it intersects the dividing line between the United States and the British possessions; thence up Pigeon river and following said dividing line to the place of beginning; be and the same are thereby authorized to form for themselves a constitution and state government, by the name of the state of Minnesota, and to come into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, according to the federal constitution."

These boundaries were accepted without change and are the boundaries of the state at the present time. The state was admitted May 11, 1858.

**Authority and Authorship.** The principal portions of this article were compiled by Hon. Francis M. Crosby and the editor of this work, from the sources mentioned in the text, and also from the United States Statutes at Large, and the "Charters and Constitutions of the United States," for publication in the "History of Dakota and Goodhue Counties," H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co., 1910. To this has been added material compiled from various sources by Return I. Holcombe, for "Minnesota in Three Centuries."

## CHAPTER VII.

### EXPLORERS, TRADERS, MISSIONARIES.

The French explorers from the settlements in Canada and about the Great Lakes gradually began to penetrate toward Minnesota. At various times traders, adventurers and priests disappeared from these settlements. What deaths they met or what experiences they underwent will never be known. What places they visited in the wilderness of the upper Mississippi is lost to human knowledge. With the seventeenth century, however, the area that is now Minnesota began to be known to the civilized

world. But it was not until the closing months of that century that any recorded exploration was made of the Minnesota river.

To understand Pierre Charles Le Sueur's trip up a portion of that river in the fall of 1700 it is necessary that a few of the earlier Mississippi river explorers should be considered.

**Grosseilliers and Radisson.** The meager accounts which these two explorers have left of their two expeditions which are supposed to have penetrated into Minnesota, are capable of more than one interpretation. Dr. Warren Upham believes that Grosseilliers and Radisson, the first known white explorers of Minnesota, entered it near the southeast corner, and proceeded up the Mississippi through Lake Pepin to Prairie Island, just above Red Wing. Here the French explorers and the Indians that accompanied them, together with other Indians, spent the year 1655-1656. Thus when Cromwell ruled Great Britain and Ireland, when the Puritan theocracy was at the height of its glory in New England, and when the great emigration of Cavaliers was still going on to Virginia, Minnesota saw its first white man—unless indeed the Scandinavians visited this region centuries before, as the Kensington Stone avers.

About New Years, 1660, if we may trust Radisson's narration and its interpretation, our "two Frenchmen" are again in Minnesota. Traveling with a big band of Indians, they passed a severe January and February, with attendant famine, probably (according to Prof. Winchell) at Knife lake, Kanabec county. According to Hon. J. V. Brower (in his monograph "Kathio," 1901) the lake was called Knife lake and the Dakota tribe of this region the Knife tribe (Issanti) because early that spring deputations of Dakotas came to the encampment and here for the first time procured steel knives from the white men and from the Indian band that was with them. Until this time the Stone Age had ruled supreme in the realm of Renville, but now we may well suppose that within a short time many an enterprising brave cherished as his most precious possession one of these magic knives that cut like a stroke of lightning. Very soon after meeting these Dakotas at Knife lake, Grosseilliers and Radisson went to the great Dakota village at Mille Laes, and were there received with every mark of friendship and respect.

Now follows the story of a seven days' trip to the prairie home of the "nation of the Boefe" (buffalo), that is to say, the Dakotas living farther west and south. This story seems likely to be fiction, but if it is true, there is a fair chance that it was to the region between the Big Bend of the Mississippi river and the prairie region of the Minnesota valley. This was possibly the nearest and most accessible buffalo country from Mille Laes. So it is possible that these two Frenchmen were the first white men to approach Renville county. But the supposition favored



by Winchell is that they went due south. However that may be, it is certain that with Grosseilliers and Radisson the first glimmer of European civilization reached Redwood county.

**Hennepin and Du Luth.** Robert Cavelier, better known in history as the Sieur de la Salle, who had built a fort near Lake Peoria, Illinois, decided in February, 1680, to send from there an expedition up the Mississippi. For this task he selected three of his associates. Accordingly, on February 29, 1680, Father Hennepin, with two companions, Picard du Gay (Anthony Auguelle) and Michael Accault (also rendered d'Accault, Ako, d'Ako and Dacan), the latter of whom was in military command of the party, set out in a canoe. They paddled down the Illinois to its mouth, where they were detained by floating ice in the Mississippi until March 12. On the afternoon of April 11, while on their way up the Mississippi, they were met by a band of Sioux on the warpath against the Illinois and Miami nation. Being informed, however, that the Miamis had crossed the river, and were beyond their reach, the Indians turned northward, taking the Frenchmen with them as captives. The journey up the river occupied nineteen days.

At the end of the nineteen days, the party landed near the present site of St. Paul, and then continued by land five days until they reached the Mille Lacs region. There Aquipaguetin, the chief, who had previously been unfriendly to a certain extent, adopted Hennepin in place of the son he had lost. The other two Frenchmen were adopted by other families. After several months in the Mille Lacs region, Hennepin and Pickard were given permission in July, 1680, to go down the Mississippi to the mouth of the Wisconsin, where they expected that La Salle would send them supplies.

On their southward journey, accompanied by a Sioux chief, Ouasicoude (Wacoota) and a band of Indians, the Frenchmen descended the Rum river, and camped on an eminence opposite what is now the city of Anoka. Accault was left as a hostage. Continuing down the river with the Indians, Hennepin and Pickard came to St. Anthony Falls, which Hennepin named in honor of his patron saint. On July 11, 1680, while hunting for the mouth of the Wisconsin river, the party was overtaken by Hennepin's savage adopted father, Aquipaguetin, with ten warriors. The two Frenchmen and the Indians then spent some time in the vicinity of Winona, hiding their meat near the mouth of the Chippewa, and then hunting on the prairies further down the river, the old men of the tribe watching on the river bluffs for enemies while the warriors killed buffaloes.

July 25, 1680, the party encountered Daniel Graysolon, Du Luth and five French soldiers. There is some doubt about the exact spot where this meeting took place, but it was probably



near the southeast corner of Minnesota, or possibly a little further south. After the meeting, the eight white men, accompanied by the Indians, went up the river. Du Luth had been exploring the country of the Sioux and the Assiniboinés, west of Lake Superior, for two years, and had secured the friendship of these very Indians who had captured Hennepin. Consequently, when he learned what had happened since he last saw them, he rebuked them for their treatment of the priest, saying that Hennepin was his brother. The party reached the Issanti villages (the Mille Lacs region) August 14, 1680. No mention is made of the route which they took.

Toward the end of September the Frenchmen left the Indians to return to the French settlements. A chart of the route was given them by Ouasicoude, the great chief. The eight Frenchmen then set out. Hennepin gives the number as eight, though it would seem that the number was nine, for Hennepin and Pickard had met Du Luth with five soldiers, and when reaching the Issanti villages they must have been rejoined by Accault, though possibly the last named stayed with the Indians and pursued his explorations. The party passed down the Rum river in the fall of 1660, and started the descent of the Mississippi. After reaching the Wisconsin they went up that river to the portage, thence up the Fox river, thence to Green Bay, and thence to the settlements in Canada.

Accault, one of Hennepin's companions, had been left with the Indians near the present site of Anoka, when Hennepin and Arguille took the memorable down-the-river trip on which they met Du Luth. Accault took many journeys with the Indians, even visiting the Itasca region, and it is not improbable that he may have been taken to the region which lies north of the upper Minnesota river and southwest of the Big Bend of the Mississippi river.

**Le Sueur.** From 1681 to 1699, Nicolas Perrot made numerous trips to the country of the upper Mississippi river. Several of his posts were located in the vicinity of the lower end of Lake Pepin, which is an enlargement of the Mississippi river extending generally speaking from a short distance above Winona to a short distance below Red Wing. One of these expeditions was probably that of Charville and Pierre Charles Le Sueur, taken up the Mississippi above the Falls of St. Anthony, about 1690. They probably went as far as the outlet of Sandy Lake.

Le Sueur wrote an account of this trip to refute certain fictitious narrations by Mathien Sagean. Of this, in his excellent and monumental work, "Minnesota in Three Centuries," in Vol. I, pp. 253-4, Dr. Warren Upham says: "Brower and Hill come to the conclusion that on the Mississippi at the outlet of sandy lake, a village of Sioux doubtless then existed, as it has also been dur-

ing the last century or longer the site of an Ojibway village. The estimates noted, that the distance traveled above the Falls of St. Anthony was about a hundred French leagues, and that an equal distance of the river's course still separated the voyageurs from its sources, agree very closely with the accurate measurements now made by exact surveys, if Le Sueur's journey ended at Sandy lake.

"Very probably Charleville, whose narration of a similar early expedition of a hundred leagues on the part of the Mississippi above these falls is preserved by Du Pratz in his 'History of Louisiana,' was a companion of Le Sueur, so that the two accounts relate to the same canoe trip. Charleville said that he was accompanied by two Canadian Frenchmen and two Indians; and it is remarkable that Charleville, like Le Sueur, was a relative of the brothers Iberville and Bienville, who afterwards were governors of Louisiana." As in Le Sueur's description of the sources of the great river, Charleville also states that the Indians spoke of the Mississippi as having many sources.

In the spring of 1695 Le Sueur and his followers erected a trading post or fort on Isle Pelee, now Prairie Island, just above Red Wing. Early in the summer of 1695 he returned to Montreal with some Indians, among whom was a Sioux chief named Tioseate, the latter being the first Sioux chief to visit Canada. Tioseate died while in Montreal.

In his journeys to the Northwest, Le Sueur received reports from the Indians which led him to believe that copper was to be found near the place where the Minnesota river turns from its southwest to its northeast course. Therefore he received a commission to examine this mine and obtain from it some ores. In April, 1700, he set out with a party of men from the lower Mississippi settlements in a sailing and rowing vessel and two canoes. September 19 he reached the mouth of the Minnesota, and on the last day of the month, having reached the mouth of the Blue Earth river near the present site of the city of Mankato, he ascended that river about a league, and erected a fort which he named Fort L'Huillier, named for a prominent officer in the service of the King of France. A short distance from the fort they located their "mine." They spent the ensuing winter at this fort, and in the spring of 1701 Le Sueur started down the river with a part of his followers and with a load of green earth which he believed to be copper. In due time he reached the Gulf of Mexico. The party whom he had left at the garrison on the Blue Earth followed him down the river at a later date. The fact that seven French traders who had been stripped naked by the Sioux, took refuge in Le Sueur's fort on the Blue Earth, and the further fact that those whom he left at the fort, encountered while going down the Mississippi a party of thirty-six Frenchmen

from Canada at the mouth of the Wisconsin, shows that aside from the explorers recorded in history, various Frenchmen, now unknown, penetrated the upper Mississippi region from time to time even at that early day.

The data secured by Le Sueur were used in the preparation of a map of the Northwest country by William De L'isle, royal geographer of France, in 1703. Several of the larger and more important physical features of southwestern Minnesota were more or less accurately located. The Minnesota river appeared upon this map, being labeled R. St. Pierre, or Mini-Sota. Its course is somewhat accurately drawn. The Des Moines river also has a place on the map, being marked Des Moines, or le Moingona R., and its source was definitely located. There is nothing in the writings of Le Sueur, however, to lead to the belief that he extended his exploration much farther up the Minnesota river than the mouth of the Blue Earth.

**Lahontan.** Early historians have endeavored to identify the "Long River" of Lahontan with the Minnesota river of the present day. In case this identification were correct then a Frenchman sighted the fair area of Renville county only three years after Hennepin made his memorable voyage up the Mississippi. Modern historians, however, entirely discredit the writings of this adventurer.

Baron de Lahontan is now regarded as the Baron Munchausen of America. His explorations and journeys to the upper Mississippi region were probably entirely fictitious and "Long River" merely a creation of his own imagination.

Lahontan was born in France in 1666, and as a soldier of the French empire came to America in 1683 as a boy of seventeen years. The next ten years he spent in various parts of Canada, and there doubtless heard the stories upon which he based his pretended journeys. In 1693 he deserted his post of duty in New Foundland and thereafter until his death, probably in 1715, he spent his life as an exile, homeless and friendless, in Holland, Denmark, Spain, the German provinces and England.

In 1703 at The Hague in Netherlands, Lahontan had narratives of his pretended travels published in three volumes, written in his native French language. Later in the same year a revised edition of the work, entitled "New Voyages to North America," was issued in London. At present there are several other English and French editions. A translation was made into German in 1711 and into the language of Holland in 1739. In this publication Lahontan pretended to have ascended the Mississippi river and to have discovered a tributary called "Long River" flowing into this river from the west. He gives in detail his many adventures on this "Long River." Before he was discredited historians had many arguments as to whether Lahontan ascended the Root

river or the Minnesota river, but we now know that he was never within many hundred miles of either.

**Carver.** During the next sixty-six years after Le Sueur visited the Minnesota river country no white man was in Southwestern Minnesota, so far as we know. Then, in November, 1766, Jonathan Carver ascended the Minnesota. Carver was a Connecticut Yankee and explored the upper Mississippi in the interests of the British government.

Of his trip to this point Carver wrote: "On the twenty-fifth of November, 1766, I returned to my canoe, which I had left at the mouth of the River St. Pierre (Minnesota), and here I parted with regret from my young friend, the prince of the Winnebagoes. The river being clear of ice by reason of its southern situation, I found nothing to obstruct my passage. On the twenty-eighth, being advanced about forty miles, I arrived at a small branch that fell into it from the north, to which, as it had no name that I could distinguish it by, I gave my own, and the reader will find it in the plan of my travels denominated Carver's river. About forty miles higher up I came to the forks of the Verd (Blue Earth) and Red Marble (Watonwan) rivers, which join at some little distance before they enter the St. Pierre.

"The River St. Pierre at its junction with the Mississippi is about a hundred yards broad and continues that breadth nearly all the way I sailed upon it. It has a great depth of water and in some places runs very swiftly. About fifteen miles from its mouth are some rapids and much higher up are many others.

"I proceeded up this river about 200 miles, to the country of the Nadowessies (Sioux) of the plains, which lies a little above the fork formed by the Verd and Red Marble rivers just mentioned, where a branch from the south (the Cottonwood) nearly joins the Messorie (Missouri) river." (The sources of the Cottonwood river are near those of Rock river, the latter being a tributary of the Missouri.)

On the seventh of December he arrived at the most westerly limit of his travels, and as he could proceed no further that season, spent the winter, a period of seven months, among a band of Nadowessies (Sioux), encamped near what is now New Ulm. In his map he draws three tepees opposite the present city of New Ulm on the north side of the Minnesota river and makes the statement, "About here the Author winter'd in 1766." In his hunting and exploration he doubtless penetrated Redwood county. He says he learned the Sioux language so as to converse with them intelligibly, and was treated by them with great hospitality. In the spring he returned to the mouth of the Minnesota.

His account of this is as follows: "I left the habitations of these hospitable Indians the latter end of April, 1767, but did not part from them for several days, as I was accompanied on my

journey by near three hundred of them, among whom were many chiefs, to the mouth of the River St. Pierre. At this season these bands annually go to the great cave (now called Carver's cave) before mentioned, to hold a grand council with all the other bands, wherein they settle their operations for the ensuing year. At the same time they carry with them their dead for interment, bound up in buffalo skins."

As already stated, Carver hunted with the Indians over some of the great plains of Southwestern Minnesota which, "according to their (the Indians') account, are unbounded and probably terminate on the coast of the Pacific ocean."

From information received from the Indians Carver made some wonderful deductions as to the physical features of the country. In his narrative of the trip he wrote: "By the accounts I received from the Indians I have reason to believe that the River St. Pierre (Minnesota) and the Messorie (Missouri), though they enter the Mississippi twelve hundred miles from each other, take their rise in the same neighborhood, and this within the space of a mile. The River St. Pierre's northern branch (that is, the main river) rises from a number of lakes (Big Stone lake) near the Shining mountains (the Coteau des Prairies), and it is from some of these also that a capital branch (Red River of the North) of the River Bourbon (Nelson river), which runs into Hudson's bay, has its sources. \* \* \* I have learned that the four most capital rivers of North America, viz., the St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, the River Bourbon (Nelson) and the Oregon (Columbia), or River of the West, have their sources in the same neighborhood. The waters of the three former are within thirty miles of each other; the latter, however, is rather farther west.

"This shows that these parts are the highest lands of North America; and it is an instance not to be paralleled on the other three-quarters of the globe, that four rivers of such magnitude should take their rise together and each, after running separate courses, discharge their waters into different oceans at the distance of 2,000 miles from their source."

Of the country through which he traveled Carver wrote: "The River St. Pierre, which runs through the territory of the Nadowessies, flows through a most delightful country, abounding with all the necessities of life that grow spontaneously, and with a little cultivation it might be made to produce even the luxuries of life. Wild rice grows here in great abundance; and every part is filled with trees bending under their loads of fruit, such as plums, grapes and apples; the meadows are covered with hops and many sorts of vegetables; whilst the ground is stored with useful roots, with angelica, spikenard and ground nuts as large as hen's eggs. At a little distance from the sides of the river are eminences from which you have views that cannot be

exceeded by even the most beautiful of those I have already described. Amid these are delightful groves and such amazing quantities of maples that they would produce sugar sufficient for any number of inhabitants."

**Ft. Snelling Established.** With the establishment of Ft. Snelling, the area of Redwood county became more widely known, as the soldiers, traders and visitors there made many trips up the river past the county.

February 10, 1819, the Fifth Regiment United States Infantry was ordered to concentrate at Detroit preparatory to a trip which was to result in the maintaining of a post at the mouth of the St. Peter's (now Minnesota) river. After establishing various garrisons at different places, the troops started up the river from Prairie du Chien, Sunday, August 8, 1819. The troops numbered ninety-eight, rank and file. They were accompanied by twenty hired boatmen. There were fourteen keel boats for the troops, two large boats for stores, and a barge for Lieut-Col. Harry Leavenworth, the commander, and Maj. Thomas Forsyth, the Indian agent. This expedition established at Mendota the military post now moved across the river and now known as Ft. Snelling.

May 10, 1823, the "Virginia," the first steamboat to navigate the upper Mississippi, arrived at Ft. Snelling, and thus what is now Redwood county was placed in still closer communication with the outside world. On board, among others, were Maj. Lawrence Taliaferro and James Constance Beltrami, the Italian explorer.

**Long, Keating, Beltrami.** Undoubtedly white men, engaged in trade with the natives or trapping and hunting for the fur companies or for themselves, visited that part of south-central Minnesota which is now designated Redwood county in the early part of the nineteenth century. But such men left few records of their operations, and our information concerning the exploration of the country is obtained almost wholly from expeditions sent out by the government.

An early visitor to south-central Minnesota was Major Stephen H. Long.

In accordance with orders from the War Department, an expedition under the command of Major Long, with a corps of scientists for observations of the geographic features, geology, zoology and botany of the Northwest, traversed the area of Minnesota in 1823, passing from Ft. Snelling up the Minnesota valley, down the valley of the Red river to Lake Winnipeg, thence up the Winnipeg river to the Lake of the Woods, and thence eastward along the international boundary and partly in Canada to Lake Superior. Prof. William H. Keating, of the University of Penn-

sylvania, was the geologist and historian of this expedition. One of its members or its guest in the travel from the fort to Pembina was Constantino Beltrami, a political exile from Italy, but becoming offended, he left the expedition at Pembina and returned to the fort by the way of Red lake and the most northern sources of the Mississippi, traveling alone or with Indian companions.

The boat party entered the mouth of the Minnesota river, then called the St. Peter, late in the night of July 2, and a stay of a week was made there, for rest and to visit the Falls of St. Anthony.

Provided by Colonel Snelling at the fort with a new and more efficient escort of twenty-one soldiers, with Joseph Renville as their Dakota interpreter, and with Joseph Snelling, a son of the colonel, as assistant guide and interpreter, the expedition set forward on July 9 up the Minnesota valley. A part traveled on horseback, including Say and Colhoun, while the others, including Long, Keating, Seymour and Renville went in four canoes, which also carried the bulk of their stores and provisions. It was planned that the land and river parties "should, as far as practicable, keep company together, and encamp every night, if possible, at the same place."

On July 13 they reached the vicinity of Traverse des Sioux (St. Peter), and encamped at a beautiful bend of the river, called the Crescent. Here the expedition left the canoes, reduced the escort, and on July 15 moved westward by the route of Swan lake. They now numbered in total twenty-four men, with twenty-one horses. The most southern part of the course of the Minnesota having been cut off by the journey past Swan lake, this stream was again reached and crossed a short distance below the mouth of the Cottonwood river. Thence the expedition passed along the southwestern side of the valley, and across the contiguous upland prairies, to Lac qui Parle and Big Stone lake. The latter lake was reached on July 22, and the Columbia Fur Company's trading post, at the southern end of Lake Traverse, the next day. Joseph Snelling returned to Ft. Snelling from Pembina by way of the Red and Minnesota rivers, thus passing Redwood county.

Of the Redwood river, Prof. Keating makes the statement that its banks "are formed of a fine white sandstone." In this observation he was in error, having mistaken the conspicuous white kaolin bluffs, which occur at this point, derived from the decomposition of the granite "in situ" for sandstone. The red pipestone was said to exist on the banks of the river three days' journey from its source.

He notes a "very interesting fragment of rock" at the place where the Redwood joins the Minnesota, said to be forty or fifty feet in circumference, evidently out of place, of an enormous



mass, and irregular hemispherical form, cleft by lightning. This mass was said to be granitic, presenting "very distinctly the appearance of a formation of concentric shales. The rock at Patterson's rapids (section 29, township 114, range 36, northern Delhi), was considered as primitive, but was not carefully examined.

Of the mouth of the Redwood river, Beltrami wrote: "We now reached a valley of the most lovely and interesting character. Never did a more striking illusion transport my imagination back to the classic lands of Latium and Magna Graecia. Rocks scattered, as if by art, over the plain, or plateau, and on the hills, were, at a little distance, perfect representations of every varied form of the ruins of antiquity. In one place you might think you saw thermal substructures, or those of an amphitheater, a circus, or a forum; in another, the remains of a temple, a cenotaph, a basilicon, or a triumphant arch. I took advantage of the time which chance procured me, to survey this enchanted ground; but I went alone, that the delicious reverie it threw me into, might not be broken by cold heartedness or presumption. My eyes continually met new images; at length they rested on a sort of tomb, which for some time held me motionless. A thousand afflicting recollections rushed to my heart; I thought I beheld the tomb of virtue and friendship; I rested my head upon it, and tears filled my eyes. The spot was of a kind to soften and embellish grief, and I should have long given myself up to its sweet influence had I not been with people who had no idea of stopping for anything but a broken saddle, or some such important incident.

The rocks are granitic, and of so beautiful and varied a quality, that the tricking dealers of the Piazza Navona, at Rome, would sell them for the most enthusiastic and,—in their own opinion—the most learned antiquarians, as oriental and Egyptian porphyry or basalt, which are now generally admitted to be merely granite more elaborated by time and water.

**The Pembina Refugees.** The members of the Pembina colony in the Red river valley were among the people who passed Redwood county during the era of exploration. In the early winter of 1820 the Pembina colony sent a delegation to Prairie du Chien for seed wheat, which could not be found nearer home. The men set out on snow shoes and reached their destination in three months. The route was by the way of the Red river to Lake Traverse, then down the Minnesota, past Fort Snelling, and thence down the Mississippi. At Prairie du Chien 250 bushels of wheat was purchased at ten shillings (\$2.50) per bushel. It was loaded into flat boats, which were, with much hard labor, propelled up the Mississippi to the St. Peter, thence up that river to the portage near Lake Traverse. The boats and cargo were

then transported across to the Red river and floated down that stream to Pembina.

In 1827 a number of Swiss families left the Red river colony to make new homes for themselves within the United States. They were accompanied by several families of French Canadians who had become "Selkirkers," that is, members of the Selkirk colony. The refugees came down the valley on the Red river—or up that stream—to Lake Traverse, and thence down the Minnesota (or St. Peter's) to Fort Snelling. Alexis Bailly and others who had visited the colonists in their Red river homes had informed them of the superiority of the Minnesota country over the Assiniboine region, and assured them that they would be heartily welcome if they removed to the big, free, hospitable and favored company of the Stars and Stripes.

Colonel Snelling gave the refugees a kindly reception and allowed them to settle on the military reservation, west of the Mississippi and north of the fort. The colonists at once set to work and built houses, opened farms, engaged in work at the fort, and were soon comfortable, contented and hopeful. All of the refugees spoke French. The French Swiss and the French Canadians seemed like kinsmen and dwelt together like brethren in unity. It is of record that among these people were Abraham Perry, a watchmaker, and Louis Massie, both Switzers, but the names of the other heads of families have not been preserved.

July 25, 1831, twenty more Red river colonists arrived at Fort Snelling. Up to the year 1836 nearly 500 more had come, and by the year 1840 nearly 200 more, while from time to time, for many years, frost-bitten and famine-stricken fugitives from the Red river country found rest for their feet, food for their bodies and comfort generally in Minnesota. But only about one-half of these people remained here permanently. The others went further south—to Prairie du Chien, to Illinois, to Missouri, and some families journeyed to Vevay, Indiana, the site of a Swiss settlement.

Nearly all of the early residents of St. Paul were Red river refugees and their children. Many of the descendants of good old Abraham Perry were born in Minnesota and are yet citizens of the state.

**Featherstonhaugh and Mather.** Another exploration of southwestern Minnesota was made in the summer of 1835 by G. W. Featherstonbaugh, an English gentleman. He bore the title of United States geologist and was commissioned by Colonel J. J. Abert, of the Bureau of Topographical Engineers. Featherstonhaugh proceeded up the Minnesota river to lakes Big Stone and Traverse, and to the high sources of the Minnesota on the Coteau des Prairies west of these lakes. Featherstonhaugh was accompanied by William Williams Mather.

From Featherstonhaugh's expedition resulted two works, one entitled "Report of geological reconnaissance made in 1835 from the seat of government by the way of Green Bay and the Wisconsin Territory to the Coteau des Prairies, an elevated ridge dividing the Missouri from the St. Peter's (Minnesota) river," printed by the order of the Senate in 1836, and the other "A Canoe Voyage up the Minnay Sotar," published in London in 1847.

**Catlin.** It was in 1837 that George Catlin, the famous traveler and Indian delineator, passed near this county on his way to visit the Pipestone quarries.

He organized the expedition at the Falls of St. Anthony and was accompanied only by Robert Serril Wood, "a young gentleman from England of fine taste and education," and an Indian guide, O-kup-kee by name.

This little party traveled horseback and followed the usual route up the Minnesota. At Traverse des Sioux, near the present site of St. Peter, Mr. Catlin and his companion halted at the cabin of a trader, where they were threatened by a band of savages and warned not to persist in their determination to visit the quarries. They continued on their way, however, crossed to the north side of the river at Traverse des Sioux, proceeded in a westerly direction, and crossed the Minnesota to the south bank near the mouth of the Waraju (Cottonwood), close to the present city of New Ulm.

There Messrs. Catlin and Wood left the river and journeyed "a little north of west" for the Coteau des Prairies. They traveled through the present counties of Brown, Redwood and Lyon and passed several Indian villages at several of which they were notified that they must go back; but, undaunted, they continued their journey. Catlin states in one place that he traveled one hundred miles or more from the mouth of the Cottonwood, and in another place "for a distance of one hundred and twenty or thirty miles" before reaching the base of the coteau, when he was still "forty or fifty miles from the Pipestone quarries." He declared that part of the journey was over one of the most beautiful prairie countries in the world.

Most of Catlin's distances were overestimated. The distance from the mouth of the Cottonwood to the base of the coteau where he came upon it is only about seventy-two miles in a direct line; then he was about thirty-six miles from the quarries.

**Nicollet and Fremont.** From 1836 to 1843, most of the time assisted by John C. Fremont, afterward candidate for the presidency of the United States on the Republican ticket, Joseph Nicolas Nicollet prosecuted a geographical survey of the upper Mississippi country. He explored nearly all portions of Minnesota and many other parts of the country theretofore unvisited.

His operations in south-central Minnesota were quite extensive. In 1838 Nicollet and Fremont made a trip to the vicinity of what is now Renville county. In the party were six men, the others being Charles A. Geyer, the botanist of the expedition; J. Eugene Flandin and James Renville.

Nicollet and Fremont traveled from Washington to St. Louis and thence up the Mississippi river to H. H. Sibley's trading post, near the mouth of the Minnesota river. Thence they journeyed over the general route of travel up the east side of the Minnesota river, crossing at Traverse des Sioux. They proceeded west across the "ox-bow," stopping at Big Swan lake in Nicollet county, and crossed the Minnesota again at the mouth of the Cottonwood. They proceeded up the valley of the Cottonwood, on the north side of the river, to a point near the present site of Lamberton, and then crossed to the south side of the river and struck across country to the Pipestone quarries.

On Nicollet's map, issued in 1843, his route to the quarries is indicated by a fine dotted line. This map at the time it was issued was the most complete and correct one of the upper Mississippi country. It covered all of Minnesota and Iowa, about one-half of Missouri, and much of the Dakotas, Wisconsin and Illinois. The author gave names to many streams and lakes and gave the first representation of the striking topographical features of the western and northern parts of Minnesota. He located, by astronomical observations, the numerous streams and lakes and the main geographical features of the state, filling in by eye-sketching and by pacing the intermediate objects. On his map the country along the Minnesota river is labeled Warpeton country and that further south Sisseton country. The Tchan-shayapi or Redwood river, Waraju or Cottonwood river, and Patterson's rapids all appear on the map.

After spending three days at the Pipestone quarries, where is now situated the city of Pipestone, the Nicollet party visited and named Lake Benton (for Mr. Fremont's father-in-law, Senator Benton) and then proceeded westward into Dakota, visiting and naming Lakes Preston (for Senator Preston); Poinsett (for J. R. Poinsett, secretary of war), Albert, Thompson, Tetonkoha, Kampeska and Hendricks. Before returning to civilization Nicollet visited Big Stone lake and other places to the north. He returned to the Falls of St. Anthony by way of Joseph Renville's camp on the Lac qui Parle.

**Allen.** The next recorded visit of white men was in 1844, when an expedition in charge of Captain J. Allen came up the Des Moines river, operating chiefly to chart that and other streams. He passed through Jackson, Cottonwood and Murray counties and came to Lake Shetek, which he decided was the source of the Des Moines river. He gave that body of water the

name Lake of the Oaks and described it as remarkable for a singular arrangement of the peninsulas running into it from all sides and for a heavy growth of timber that covered the peninsulas and the borders of the lake.

With Lake Shetek as temporary headquarters, Captain Allen extended his explorations in several directions. He proceeded due north from the lake and crossed the Cottonwood and later the Redwood near the present site of Marshall. When thirty-seven miles north of Lake Shetek he turned east and crossed the Redwood again near the site of Redwood Falls. From the mouth of the Redwood he explored the south shore of the Minnesota river several miles up and down and returned to Lake Shetek. The expedition then set out for the west and went down the Big Sioux river to its mouth.

"From Lizard creek of the Des Moines to the source of the Des Moines, and thence east to the St. Peter's is a range for elk and common deer, but principally elk," wrote Captain Allen. "We saw a great many of the elk on our route and killed many of them; they were sometimes seen in droves of hundreds, but were always difficult to approach and very difficult to overtake in chase, except with a fleet horse and over good ground. No dependence could be placed in this country for the subsistence of troops marching through it."

**Fur Traders.** These explorers, Le Sueur, Carver, Long, Keating and Beltrami, Featherstonhaugh and Mather, Catlin, Nicolle and Fremont and Allen were men who gave their knowledge to the world, and their journeys in the Minnesota river region marked distinct epochs in its development. It should be understood, however, that even before 1700 white men were probably passing Renville county with more or less frequency. The fact that several Frenchmen took refuge in Le Sueur's fort after being stripped naked by the Indians, shows that white men visited this region even at that early date.

Lac qui Parle, Big Stone lake and Lake Traverse made excellent fur trading points, and were probably locations of such from early in the eighteenth century. The furs from these posts were brought down the Minnesota and past Renville county in canoes.

Of the several traders in the Minnesota valley toward the close of the eighteenth century one of the principal ones was Murdoch Cameron, a Scotchman.

As early as 1783, Charles Patterson had a trading post in Redwood county. He was located in what is now section 29, township 114, range 36 (Delhi township), at the place long known as Patterson's rapids. It is not, however, definitely known on which side of the rapids Patterson located. He may have been over the river in Renville county.

Charles Le Page, a Canadian, made a trip from the Yellow-

stone region in 1803. He reached the headwaters of the Minnesota, May 15, and with a band of Yanktons and Sissetons went on to Mendota.

James H. Lockwood, the first white native of the United States to trade with the Indians of this locality, came up the Minnesota river in 1816, and maintained a trading post at Lac qui Parle for a little over two years.

After Ft. Snelling was established, an Indian agency opened, where the traders were required to obtain licenses from the agent. In 1826 the records of the agent show that Joseph Renville was at Lac qui Parle, and John Campbell at the mouth of the Chippewa, both of which locations were not far from Renville county. William Dickson and Hazen P. Mooers were at Lake Traverse. Mooers was especially successful. It is recorded that in the summer of 1829 "the dry year," he made a trip from Lake Traverse to Ft. Snelling with 126 packs of furs, valued at \$12,000.

In 1833-23 Moers and Renville were at the same stations as in 1826. Joseph R. Brown, afterward a pioneer of Renville county, was on the Minnesota at the mouth of the Chippewa. Joseph Renville, Jr., was at the Little Rock on the Minnesota, at the mouth of the Little Rock (Mud) creek, which flows for a part of its course in what is now Renville county. Joseph La Framboise established himself at the mouth of the Little Rock in 1834. He also had various other locations and was in Lyon county when Catlin passed in 1837.

**The Missionaries.** In 1835 Thomas S. Williamson established a mission at Lac qui Parle. In coming up the river as a missionary for the American Board of Foreign Missions, Williamson had met Joseph Renville. After surveying the situation carefully, the missionary concluded to accompany Mr. Renville to the latter's home and store at Lac qui Parle and establish a mission station there. On June 23 his party embarked on the Fur Company's Mackinaw boat, which was laden with traders' goods and supplies, and set out on a voyage up the Minnesota, then at a good stage of water. The boat was propelled by poles, oars, a sail, and by pulling the willows along the abrupt shores. Progress was very slow and eight days were required to reach Traverse des Sioux. From the Traverse the remainder of the journey was made in wagons and Lac qui Parle was reached July 9—seventeen days out from Fort Snelling. At Lac qui Parle Dr. Williamson and his companions established themselves as religious teachers of the Wahpeton and Sisseton Sioux.

Dr. Williamson was accompanied by his wife and child, Alexander G. Huggins and family, and Sarah Poage, a sister of Mrs. Williamson.

In 1852 another mission was established a few miles above the mouth of the Yellow Medicine river. In the summer of 1854, a

new section, New Hope (Hazelwood) was built two miles from the Yellow Medicine station.

These mission stations brought to the region of Redwood county nearly all the early Protestant missionaries of Minnesota.

**Chronology.** Following is a summary of the history of Minnesota during the period of exploration:

1635. Jean Nicollet, an explorer from France, who had wintered in the neighborhood of Green Bay, brought to Montreal the first mention of the aborigines of Minnesota.

1659-60. Grosseilliers and Radisson wintered among the Sioux of the Mille Laes region, Minnesota, being its first white explorers. In a previous expedition, four years earlier, they are thought by some to have come to Prairie island, west of the main channel of the Mississippi, between Red Wing and Hastings.

1661. Father Rene Menard left Kewennaw, on Lake Superior, to visit the Hurons, then in northern Wisconsin, and was lost near the sources of the Black and Chippewa rivers. His breviary and cassock were said to have been found among the Sioux.

1679. July 2, Daniel Greyselon Du Lhut (Duluth) held a council with the Sioux at their principal settlement on the shore of Mille Laes. Du Lhut, in June, 1680, by way of the St. Croix river, reached the Mississippi and met Hennepin.

1680. Louis Hennepin, after captivity in the village of the Mille Laes Sioux, first saw the Falls of St. Anthony.

1689. May 8, Nicolas Perrot, at his Fort St. Antoine, on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Pepin, laid formal claim to the surrounding country for France. He built a fort also on the Minnesota shore of this lake, near its outlet, as well as other posts.

1690. (?) Le Sueur and Charleville ascended the Mississippi above St. Anthony falls.

1695. Le Sueur built a fort or trading post on Isle Pelee, now called Prairie island, above Lake Pepin.

1700. Le Sueur established Fort L'Huillier, on the Blue Earth river (near the mouth of the Le Sueur), and first supplied the Sioux with firearms.

1727. The French established a fort on the present site of Frontenac on Lake Pepin. Forts were also erected on nearly the same site in 1727 and 1750.

1728. Great flood in the Mississippi.

1763. By the treaty of Versailles, France ceded Minnesota, east of the Mississippi, to England, and west of it to Spain.

1766. Captain Jonathan Carver visited St. Anthony falls and Minnesota river. He claimed to have made a treaty with the Indians the following spring, in a cave, afterward called "Carver's Cave," within the present limits of St. Paul, at which he said



they ceded to him an immense tract of land, long known as "Carver's Claim," but never recognized by government.

1796. Laws of the Ordinance of 1787 extended over the Northwest territory, including the northeastern third of Minnesota, east of the Mississippi river.

1798-99. The Northwestern Fur Company established itself in Minnesota.

1800. May 7, that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi became a part of Indiana by the division of Ohio.

1803. April 30, that part of Minnesota west of the Mississippi, for the preceding forty years in possession of Spain as a part of Louisiana, was ceded to the United States by Napoleon Bonaparte, who had just obtained it from Spain.

1803-04. William Morrison, the first known white man to discover the source of the Mississippi river, visited Elk lake and explored the streams entering into the lake forming the head of the river.

1805. Lieut. Z. M. Pike visited Minnesota to establish government relations there, and obtained the Fort Snelling reservation from the Dakotas.

1812. The Dakotas, Ojibways and Winnebagoes, under the lead of hostile traders, joined the British during the war. Red river colony established by Lord Selkirk.

1819. Minnesota, east of the Mississippi river, became a part of Crawford county, Michigan. Fort Snelling established and a post at Mendota occupied by troops, under command of Colonel Leavenworth. Maj. L. Taliaferro appointed Indian agent, arriving April 19.

1820. Cornerstone of Fort Snelling laid September 10. Governor Cass visited Minnesota and made a treaty of peace between the Sioux and Ojibways at Fort Snelling. Col. Josiah Snelling appointed to the command of the latter post.

1823. The first steamboat arrived at Mendota, May 10, Major Taliaferro and Beltrami being passengers. Maj. Stephen H. Long explored Minnesota river, the Red river valley, and the northern frontier. Beltrami explored sources of the Mississippi.

1826. Great flood on the Red river; a part of the colony driven to Minnesota, settling near Fort Snelling.

1832. Schoolcraft explored sources of Mississippi river, and named Lake Itasca (formerly called Elk lake).

1833. First mission established at Leech lake by Rev. W. T. Boutwell.

1834. The portion of Minnesota west of the Mississippi attached to Michigan. Gen. H. H. Sibley settled at Mendota.

1835. Catlin and Featherstonhaugh visited Minnesota.

1836. The territory of Wisconsin organized, embracing the

part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi, the part on the west being attached to Iowa. Nicollet visited Minnesota.

1837. Governor Dodge, of Wisconsin, made a treaty, at Fort Snelling, with the Ojibways, by which the latter ceded all their pine lands on the St. Croix and its tributaries; a treaty was also effected at Washington with a deputation of Dakotas for their lands east of the Mississippi. These treaties led the way to the first actual settlements within the area of Minnesota.

**Authority.** This article has been compiled by the editor from many available sources regarding the early Minnesota explorers. The chronology is from the Minnesota Legislative Manual.

**References.** "History of Minnesota," by Edward D. Neill.

"Minnesota in Three Centuries," by Warren H. Upham and Return I. Holcombe.

Vol. I, "The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota," 1872-1882.

"History of Lyon County, Minnesota," by Arthur P. Rose, 1912.

The Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society (fifteen volumes).

See catalogue of the Minnesota Historical Society Library for volumes dealing with the trips of the various explorers.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE LOWER SIOUX AGENCY.

The Sioux Indian Reservation as established by the treaties of 1851, embraced a strip of land, twenty miles wide, ten miles on each side of the Minnesota, extending from the mouth of the Little Rock (Mud creek) a few miles west of New Ulm, to the western boundary of the state. A reservation was divided into the Upper and Lower reservations by a line a few miles west of Redwood county. The strip on the northern side of the river was little used by the Indians, and was by them relinquished in 1858.

The work of removing the Indians of the Mississippi and lower Minnesota river country to the lower reservation was a long and difficult task, and stretched over a period of several years. Ft. Ridgely, a few miles east of Redwood county, was started in 1853, but there were at that time no considerable number of Indians living in the Lower reservation. In 1854, the Lower Redwood agency was established in Sherman township, Redwood county. A building was erected for agency headquarters, and in time other structures for the officials, teachers, gov-

ernment farmers, mechanics, laborers, missionaries, and even for the Indians themselves were erected. Several stores were also put up. In 1855 a sawmill was constructed at the falls within what is now the city of Redwood Falls.

Gradually the Indians settled about the agency, and here, too, gathered quite a colony of white people, and a few half-breeds also settled near by.

The events in the life of the agency, will be related in the following chapter under the head of "Causes of the Outbreak," and in that chapter also will be found the location of the different tribes.

Splendid communication existed between the Lower agency and the outside world. The ferry connected it with the government military road to Ft. Ridgely, and from Ft. Ridgely there were roads to St. Peter, and to Henderson, as well as trails to many other pioneer points. From the Lower agency the military road led to the Upper agency on the Yellow Medicine, while across the river was the road westward from Ft. Ridgely to Ft. Abercrombie. Another road from the Lower agency led south to Col. Nobles' Government Wagon road from Ft. Ridgely to the South Pass of the Rocky mountains. Many boats were plying the Minnesota, bringing both supplies and passengers.

With the building of the Lower agency, the Government undertook the difficult task of making white men out of the Indians. The civilization and habits which the white race had acquired through countless generations of development was to be thrust upon a people whom Nature had designated for a wholly different life. The race which had lived on the boundless sweeps, sleeping in God's fresh air, and getting their livelihood by the chase, were to be confined in houses and made to till the soil, while proud warriors at whose command had been the unlimited wealth of river and lake, of forest and stream, of hill and prairie, were to be made into common laborers, splitters of wood, and delvers of the earth.

Many of the white men concerned in this purpose were high minded men of sincere convictions, but many were mere parasites, preying upon the Indian, debauching his womankind, cheating him in trade, and securing his funds and substance through trickery and fraud.

In September, 1857, Joseph R. Brown was appointed agent for the Sioux agency, succeeding Charles E. Flandrau. He immediately began important reforms and his influence was vastly more powerful than that of all his predecessors in the aggregate. The Indians were nearly all blanketed and wild when Major Brown took charge, but shortly he had influenced scores of them to wear the garb of the white man, to have their hair cut short, to cast their ancient adornments aside and instead to carry hoes

or spades or axes in their hands. They began to live in houses, to cook their food on stoves, and to sleep on four-post bedsteads. Numbers of them professed to be Christians. The Indian farming operations, the work of building houses, and the other improvements were superintended by white men in the employ of the Government, but in some instances a full-blood Indian was instructor in farming for the other members of a band; such a character was called a "farmer Indian." Oxen for teams, wagons, plows, and other implements were issued by the Government, and distributed among the bands. The annual payments and issues of other supplies were made, for a time, regularly, and a skilled physician was in attendance at each agency to minister to the Indians in case of sickness, the medicines being furnished by the Government. The majority of the Indians, however, continued the repose and trust of their faith in the "medicine man" of the olden times.

The change in the administration of the Government in 1861, resulting, as it did, in a general change in the minor offices throughout the country, carried into retirement Major William J. Cullen, superintendent of Indian affairs for the northern superintendency, and Major Joseph R. Brown, agent for the Sioux, whose places were filled respectively by Colonel Clark W. Thompson and Major Thomas J. Galbraith. Colonel Thompson entered upon the duties of his office in May of that year, and Major Galbraith on the first day of June. In that month the new agent and many of the new employes, with their families, took up their residence on the reservations.

These employes, save a few young men who were employed as laborers, were, with the two exceptions, men of families, it being the policy of the agent to employ among the Indians as few unmarried men as possible.

The new agent endorsed the policy and adopted the methods of his predecessor almost entirely. Especially, did he endeavor to make the Indians self-supporting. Those who were already "farmers" or "breeches Indians," were favored and encouraged in many ways, and those who were still barbaric and blanketed were remonstrated with, and entreated to enter upon the new life.

The autumn of 1861 closed upon the affairs of the farmer-Indians quite unsatisfactorily; their crops were light—the Upper Sioux raised little or nothing. The cutworms and blackbirds had destroyed or damaged almost all the crops. Under the direction of Missionary Riggs, who lived among them, Agent Galbraith fed one thousand five hundred of the Indians, with supplies bought on credit, from the middle of December, 1861, to April 1, 1862, when they were able to go off on their spring hunt. He also fed and cared for a number of old and infirm Indians, who,

but for the assistance of the Government, must have starved during that hard winter of 1861-1862.

The "farmer" Indians were kept at work during the winter, making fence rails, cutting and hauling saw logs to the saw mills at the Upper and Lower agency, and other work, and in payment received regular issues of supplies for themselves and families.

In August, 1861, the agent hired the farmer of the Lower agency to plow 500 acres of fallow land, in what was called the public land, or the land cultivated by the Indians in common. The price of plowing was from \$1.50 to \$2 per acre. At the same time, 475 acres of similar land were plowed for the Upper Sioux; later the Lower farmers plowed 250 acres and the Upper farmers 325 acres for their individual use. The plowing was done at this time to kill the eggs of the cutworms. In November, 1861, the fine stone warehouse, the walls of which are still standing, was completed at the Lower agency. At this time there was a good steam sawmill, with a corn grinding mill attached, operated by Government employes, at each of the agencies. In the winter of 1861-62, the Indians delivered at the Redwood sawmill 650,000 feet of saw logs and 128 cords of shingle blocks, and the Upper mill received from the same class 178,000 feet of logs. The tree tops and other fallen wood from the log timber, was cut into cord wood by the Indians, who were paid \$2.55 a cord at the Lower and \$1.25 at the Upper agency; this wood was used for burning brick. The sawmill supplied the carpenter shops with lumber for repairing sheds and wagons, and other implements, and even for building lumber. The "farmer" Indians built stables and pens for their cattle.

In the early winter of 1862, Agent Galbraith had the plans prepared for fifty new dwelling houses for Indian families, the buildings to cost an average of \$300 each, and the "farmer" Indians were promised thirty more houses. In March, he purchased and had shipped to the reservation 472 plows of various sizes, shovels, scythes, grain cradles and other implements; four farm wagons and forty-five ox carts; for sowing and planting 20 bushels of beans and peas, 285 bushels of corn, thirty bushels of wheat, 3,690 bushels of potatoes and proportionate quantities of turnip, pumpkin and other vegetable seeds. The wheat, corn, and potatoes were purchased from the "farmer" Indians, and paid for in goods and extra provisions from the Government warehouse. A large number of live stock was also furnished for the Indians. In the spring, Major Galbraith purchased in St. Paul a large quantity of builders' hardware, several hundred suits of ready-made clothing, a set of blacksmith's and two sets of carpenter's tools, a great quantity of wooden ware, furniture, etc., and had them shipped to the Lower agency. During the winter, 1861-62, the "farmer" Indians at the Lower agency made

18,000 good rails and posts. Over 200,000 brick had been burned in the fall of 1861.

In the spring of 1862, there were planted for and by the Medawakantons and Wahpakootas, on the Lower reservation, 1,025 acres of corn, 260 acres of potatoes, 60 acres of turnips and rutabages (twelve acres of experimental spring wheat, and large areas of beans, peas, and other field and garden vegetables. These crops were all well cultivated, plowed, hoed and weeded, and when the outbreak came were in much better condition than the fields of many of their white neighbors, only a few miles away.

The amount of transportation over the road from the Lower to the Upper agency was very large, and traversing this road were numerous sloughs, coulies, brooks, and creeks difficult of passage. In the spring and summer of 1862, Agent Galbraith built no less than eighteen substantial and permanent bridges over the water courses on the agency road. The bridges were not all completed until August 1, and were not much used prior to the outbreak, but they were of great service to General Sibley's army, when it invaded the Indian country.

In June, 1862, Agent Galbraith promised to build for Little Crow, a good brick house, with all the then modern improvements, if he would aid in bringing around his young men to habits of industry and civilization, and would himself become a "farmer" Indian. The chief made the required promise of reformation and agreed to do part of the work himself. The site has been marked by a granite tablet, put up by the late Charles D. Gilfillan. A part of the cellar was finished, at the time of the outbreak, in August, 1862.

By the second week in August, 1862, the Indian crops were in fine condition, and everything looked prosperous for a bountiful harvest. The worst trouble was with the crows and blackbirds; vast swarms and flocks of these birds attacked the cornfields. The grains were in the milk or soft stage, and the strong-billed pests could easily tear open the husk and ruin an ear of corn in a few minutes. The Indian women and children went to the cornfields at dawn and remained until night-fall, busily engaged all day in keeping off the little black-feathered creatures. All the Indian cornfields at both agencies were strongly fenced to keep out the stock, which was allowed to graze at large.

On the fifteenth of August the agent made a careful and conservative estimate of the crops his Indians would harvest that fall. The lowest estimates were that the Lower Sioux would gather and store 25,625 bushels of corn, 32,500 bushels of potatoes, 13,500 bushels of turnips, 240 bushels of wheat, a large quantity of beans, pumpkins, etc. It was believed that all of this great supply would be available for human food, as the Indians had cut and stacked enough prairie hay to winter their stock, and

many of them were still at work cutting grass, when the terrible outbreak began.

In 1862, the agency was a flourishing community, assuming almost the aspect of a city. With its warehouse and other Government buildings, a nearly completed Episcopal church, some traders' stores, a boarding house, and many dwelling houses, both Indians and of whites. The steep road which had been graded down the bank to the ferry, was constantly thronged with Indians, half-breeds, government employes, and the German settlers, who had located in large numbers just across the river in Renville county.

In the near neighborhood of the agency were the Indian villages of Little Crow, Blue Earth, Traveling Hail, Big Eagle, Yacouta, Wabasha and Hushasha.

The four trading houses at the Redwood agency in 1862 were those of Capt. Louis Robert, William H. Forbes, Nathan Myrick & Co., and Francois La Bathe, the latter a mixed blood Sioux. All of these stood west of the principal agency buildings, La Bathe's coming first, and then Myrick's just east of the big ravine. Across the ravine to the northward, near the crest of the bluff, was Forbes' store, and to the west of Forbes', about 150 yards, was Robert's. Myrick's was the largest in capacity.

Captain Robert was a prominent early settler and trader of Minnesota. One of the principal streets in St. Paul is named in his honor. He was a steamboat owner and captain, and also the owner of many posts and stores. After the massacre, in 1865, he opened the first store in Redwood Falls.

**Authorities and References.** This article is based upon material by Return I. Holcombe, appearing in "Minnesota in Three Centuries," and a pamphlet "Monuments and Tablets Erected by the Minnesota Valley Historical Society." Major Holcombe's articles were based upon the report of Major Thomas J. Galbraith, for 1861-62, upon various published accounts of the massacre, upon personal observations of the region, and upon the personal testimony of Indians and whites, who lived at the agency prior to the massacre, or who participated in some of its stirring events.



## CHAPTER IX.

**CAUSES OF THE OUTBREAK.**

The Sioux outbreak was the culmination of a long series of injustices toward the Indians on the part of the whites. Debauched, defrauded, degraded; forced by fear of the strength of the whites, and by misrepresentations, to dispose of their lands; herded together on reservations; treated by the whites as half-witted children, cheated by the traders and starved by the stupidity of high officials at Washington, who, in addition to the unfair provisions of unjust treaties, imposed additional conditions; the Indians, knowing the revenge that the whites would take for a murder already committed by some renegade braves, arose in their might, and for a time nearly succeeded in regaining their hereditary holdings.

The relations of the Sioux Indians to the white trespassers on their lands were of a friendly nature from the time of the arrival of the first white explorer. Adventurers and traders came and went at will. The French, true to their policy, made friends with the Sioux, and the English followed their example. So deep was the friendship existing between the Sioux and the British that they fought side by side in the Revolutionary War and in the War of 1812.

With the people of the United States the Sioux were no less tolerant, and until the great outbreak they remained faithful to the obligations of the treaty they made with Zebulon M. Pike, in 1805, with the exception already mentioned of a short period during the War of 1812, when the Sioux, knowing little of the Americans, and remembering their many obligations to the English, took up arms in behalf of the British king. Even during that period Red Wing's band remained loyal to the Stars and Stripes.

There were, of course, isolated cases in which individual Sioux warriors wrought revenge for injuries received, just as there are illegal acts committed in civilized white communities. The despoiling of the French adventurers who, naked and bruised, sought shelter in LeSueur's fort near Mankato in the winter of 1700-01; the murder of Pagonta, "The Mallard Duck," at Mendota by Ix-ka-tapay in 1761; the murder of the two cattle drovers by a few wild Sisseton near Big Stone lake in 1846; the killing of Elijah S. Terry by men of the same tribe near Pembina in 1852; the shooting in October of the latter year of Mrs. Keener by Zv-yah-se were offenses in which the Sioux as a nation had no part, for which the perpetrators only were responsible. In fact, the Sioux boasted up to the time of the outbreak that never

in all history had a white man been injured in the Sioux country with the approval of the Sioux as a people.

Gradually, however, discontent grew up between the Indians and the whites, though an outward friendliness was maintained. The real causes of the final outbreak were the treaties of 1851. The Sioux did not want to give up their land. They desired to live as they had lived through the countless centuries. In signing the treaties which relinquished their lands and condemned themselves to a practical imprisonment on a reservation, the Sioux were bowing to the inevitable.

Probably if the treaties had merely provided for the transfer of their lands to the whites for a certain amount and the amount had been paid, the Indians would have made the best of a bad bargain, and on their reservations they might, as time progressed, have worked out their own problem. But there were many other provisions in the treaties.

By the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, dated July 23, 1851, between the United States and the Sissetons and Wapetons, \$275,000 were to be paid their chiefs, and a further sum of \$30,000 was to be expended for their benefit in Indian improvements. By the treaty of Mendota, dated August 5, 1851, the Medawakantons and Wapakutas were to receive the sum of \$200,000, to be paid to their chief, and for an improvement fund the further sum of \$80,000. Annuities were also to be paid for a certain number of years. The several sums, which were to become payable when the Indians reached their reservations, amounting in the aggregate to \$555,000, these Indians, to whom they were payable, claimed they were never paid, except, perhaps, a small portion expended in improvements on the reservations. They became dissatisfied, and expressed their views in council freely with the agent of the government.

In 1857, the Indian department at Washington sent out Major Kintzing Prichette, a man of great experience, to inquire into the cause of this disaffection towards the government. In his report of that year, made to the Indian department, Major Prichette says:

"The complaint which runs through all their councils points to the imperfect performance, or non-fulfillment of treaty stipulations. Whether these were well or ill founded it is not my province to discuss. That such a belief prevails among them, impairing their confidence and good faith in the government, cannot be questioned."

In one of these councils Jagmani said: "The Indians sold their lands at Traverse des Sioux. I say what we were told. For fifty years they were to be paid \$50,000 per annum. We were also promised \$305,000, and that we have not seen." Mapipa Wicasta (Cloud Man), second chief of Jagmani's band, said: "At

the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, \$275,000 were to be paid them when they came upon their reservation; they desired to know what had become of it. Every white man knows that they have been five years upon their reservation, and have yet heard nothing of it."

When the treatment of the Indians became widely known the government could no longer cover up the matter and decided to appoint Judge Young to investigate the charges made against the governor, of the then Minnesota territory, then acting, *ex-officio*, as superintendent of Indian affairs for that locality. Some short extracts from Judge Young's report are here presented:

"The governor is next charged with having paid over the greater part of the money, appropriated under the fourth article of the treaty of July 23 and August 5, 1851, to one Hugh Tyler, for payment or distribution to the 'traders' and 'half-breeds,' contrary to the wishes and remonstrances of the Indians, and in violation of law and the stipulations contained in said treaties; and also in violation of his own solemn pledges, personally made to them, in regard to said payments.

"Of \$375,000 stipulated to be paid under the first clause of the fourth article of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, of July 24, 1851, the sum of \$250,000 was delivered over to Hugh Tyler, by the governor, for distribution among the 'traders' and 'half-breeds,' according to the arrangement made by the schedule of the Traders' Paper, dated at Traverse des Sioux, July 23, 1851," (This was the paper which the Indians declared they were told was merely another copy of the treaty.—Ed.)

"For this large sum of money, Hugh Tyler executed two receipts to the governor, as the attorney for the 'traders' and 'half-breeds;' the one for \$210,000 on account of the 'traders,' and the other for \$40,000 on account of the 'half-breeds;' the first dated at St. Paul, December 8, 1852, and the second at Mendota, December 11, 1852.

"And of the sum of \$110,000, stipulated to be paid to the Medawakantons, under the fourth article of the treaty of August 5, 1851, the sum of \$70,000 was in like manner paid over to the said Tyler, on a power of attorney executed to him by the traders and claimants, under the said treaty, on December 11, 1852. The receipts of the said Tyler to the governor for this money, \$70,000, is dated at St. Paul, December 13, 1852, making together the sum of \$320,000. This has been shown to have been contrary to the wishes and remonstrances of a large majority of the Indians." And Judge Young adds: "It is also believed to be in violation of the treaty stipulations, as well as the law making the appropriations under them."

These several sums of money were to be paid to these Indians in open council, and soon after they were on their reservations

provided for them by the treaties. In these matters the report shows they were not consulted at all, in open council; but on the contrary, that arbitrary divisions and distributions were made of the entire fund, and their right denied to direct the manner in which they should be appropriated. (See Acts of Congress, August 30, 1852.)

The Indians claimed, also, that the third section of the act was violated, as by that section the appropriations therein referred to, should, in every instance, be paid directly to the Indians themselves, to whom it should be due, or to the tribe, or part of the tribe, per capital, "unless otherwise the imperious interests of the Indians or some treaty stipulation should require the payment to be made otherwise, under the direction of the president." This money was never so paid. The report further states that a large sum, "\$55,000, was deducted by Hugh Tyler by way of discount and percentage on gross amount of payments, and that these exactions were made both from traders and half-breeds, without any previous agreement, in many instances, and in such a way, in some, as to make the impression that unless they were submitted to, no payments would be made to such claimants at all."

And, finally the report says, that from the testimony it was evident that the money was not paid to the chiefs, either to the Sisseton, Wapaton or Medawakanton bands, as they in open council requested; but that they were compelled to submit to this mode of payment to the traders, otherwise no payment would be made, and the money would be returned to Washington; so that in violation of law they were compelled to comply with the governor's terms of payment, according to Hugh Tyler's power of attorney.

The examination of this complaint, on the part of the Indians, by the Senate of the United States, resulted in "whitewashing" the governor of Minnesota (Governor Alexander Ramsey), yet the Indians were not satisfied with the treatment they had received in this matter by the accredited agents of the government.

Neither were the Indians satisfied with the annual payments. They had desired that they receive the money promptly and in cash. Instead they received part of it in provisions, which gave the whites many opportunities for taking advantages of them, the market value of the provisions never being equal to the amount which was taken out of the Indian fund to pay for them. The Indians rightfully felt that they should be given the money and allowed to do the purchasing themselves.

Then, too, a certain amount of the money due the Indians each year was devoted to a "civilization fund," that is, for agency expenses, erecting agency buildings, paying agents, teach-

ers, farmers, missionaries and the like, thus making another drain on an already small sum. The Indian could not view with calmness the luxury in which the whites were living on money which rightfully belonged to the Indian, while the Indian himself was living in poverty, shut off from the rich sweeps of land where he had formerly received his sustenance and condemned to a manner of life and work for which he had no aptitude

The action of the government in regard to the Inkpadoota massacre, so called, added force to the smouldering dissatisfaction. The Indians guilty of this tragedy were formerly members of Sioux bands, but their own acts, in many cases murder of companions and relatives, had shut them off from their own people, so at the time of the 1857 outrage they were renegades, outlaws, whose crimes against their own kinsmen had been such that the Sioux had driven them forth to wander the prairies like savage wolves, hated alike by Indian and Caucasian.

For many years they were in constant trouble with the whites, their outlaw acts being many and black, though the authorities took no action against them. Sometimes, however, an outraged white settler visited summary punishment on his own account without waiting for the authorities.

Early in March, 1857, Inkpadoota's band of outlaws stole some horses and sleds from some settlers on the Little Sioux river, and on March 8 commenced their awful slaughter on Lake Okoboji, in Dickinson county, Iowa. Spirit lake is connected with this lake by open straits, and though only one man was actually murdered on the banks of Spirit lake the affair is usually called the Spirit lake massacre.

March 26 came the massacre at Springfield, in what is now Brown county, this state. Inkpadoota, whose force consisted of but twelve fighting men, in addition to women and children, was pursued by several companies of soldiers. Many innocent Indians were fired upon and maltreated, but Inkpadoota was not captured.

In June came the time for the annual payments to the Indians at the agency. When the Indians gathered there to receive their money they were told that no payments would be made unless they (the Indians) should go out and capture Inkpadoota. This command was made on the order of Indian Commissioner J. W. Denver.

To the stupidity and stubbornness of this man Denver, Minnesota owes its Indian massacre of 1862. Wise men in the territory suggested that the people of the territory be allowed to raise a troop of soldiers and go after Inkpadoota, supported by a detachment of cavalry. But these men were promptly told by Secretary of War Floyd and Commissioner Denver that no suggestions were

desired and that the officials at Washington would handle the affair as they saw fit.

Thus the weeks passed while the Indians endured untold sufferings of illness and starvation. They saw their wives and children hunger and sicken and die. The grasshoppers were eating up their garden produce and their corn fields and truck fields were spoiling of neglect while they waited at the agency for the money that a great government owed them. And this great government, whose own well-armed and well-equipped troops had failed to capture a small band of twelve men, though at one time only a few miles away from them, demanded that the starving Sioux awaiting their payments arm and equip themselves and capture these outlaws, in whose doings they had no part and no interest.

"Give us our annuities first, so that we can eat, and we will go after Inkpadoota," said many of the Indians. "The treaty I signed at Traverse des Sioux said our money would be paid us regularly, and nothing was said about our having to go out and bring in those who had killed white people. Ne-manka-Ha-yu-sha" (skin your own skunk). Thus spoke Chief Red Iron. Superintendent Cullen and Agent Flandrau could only reply that they were acting under orders from Commissioner Denver and must obey him. But Cullen's heart was not in the work; he sent an agent, a Mr. Bowes, down to Dunleith, Illinois, then the nearest telegraph station to Minnesota, so that speedy communication could be had with Washington, and he telegraphed Denver, repeatedly urging a repeal, or at least a modification of the obnoxious order, which Cullen and Flandrau were as loth to enforce as the Indians were unwilling to execute. But Denver was obdurate, and Secretary Floyd was haughtily indifferent. At last Cullen and Flandrau appealed to Little Crow to help them. They assured him that their superiors were determined that before the annuities were paid the peaceable Indians must pursue and destroy, or capture, Inkpadoota and all his band. If the Indians persisted in their refusal to do what was required there was the greatest danger of a bloody war between them and the whites, and nobody knew that better than Little Crow. He was asked to set an example by furnishing fifty men from his own bands for the expedition against the outlaws, and to command the expedition himself. "Your band shall first be furnished with abundant supplies," said Major Cullen. The chief at once consented, and visited the other chiefs and bands to induce them to join him.

On the eighteenth another council was held relative to the expedition against Inkpadoota. Cullen, Flandrau, Special Agent Pritchette and Major Sherman represented the whites. A number of new bright colored blankets and a fat beef were presented

to each band for a feast. The Indians decided to undertake the expedition, with Little Crow in command, and no white troops to go.

The next day, Sunday, July 19, the Lower Indians set out to join the Upper Indians at Yellow Medicine, and from that agency on the Wednesday following the entire party marched, Little Crow in command. Major Cullen sent his interpreter, Antoine Joseph Campbell, and three other half-breeds, John and Baptiste Campbell and John Mooers. The entire party numbered over one hundred men—Major Cullen says one hundred and thirty-one; Joe Campbell reported one hundred and six. Major Sherman furnished a wagon laden with provisions, drawn by six mules.

The expedition set out for Skunk lake—now called Madison lake—about forty miles west of the Red Pipestone Quarry, in what is now Lake county, South Dakota. Joe Campbell kept a daily journal of the expedition, and from his itinerary, published with the superintendent's report, it is learned that two days after leaving Yellow Medicine the party reached Joseph Brown's trading post on the head of the Redwood; here Glittering Cloud was elected conductor or guide of the expedition. The next day they encamped at the village of Lean Bear, head soldier of the Sleepy Eye band. Then via the "Hole in the Mountain," and Crooked river, the expedition reached Sunk lake on the afternoon of July 28 and found the outlaws. Meanwhile the outlawed band had quarreled and separated. Inkpadoota and three other warriors, with a number of women and children, had gone far to the westward. The other eight fighting men, with nine women and thirteen children, had come eastward and encamped at Skunk lake, where there were ducks and fish in abundance. They occupied six lodges, which were distributed along the lake shore for three miles. The advance of Little Crow and his party had been discovered, and all the lodges had been deserted, and their inmates had fled to another lake twelve or fifteen miles to the westward, then called by the Indians Big Driftwood lake, and now called Lake Herman. Little Crow had a mounted advance guard of seventeen men led by himself. They overtook the fugitives crossing the lake, and after a short parley commenced shooting, firing into and across the lake until the fugitives were far out of range. In all three women, three men and three children of the Inkpadootas were killed. It was never known or cared whether or not the women and children were killed deliberately.

Upon the return of Little Crow and his force with the two women prisoners, one of them the widow of Shifting Wind, who had been killed, they were notified that perhaps they had not done enough to secure the payment of their annuities; the authorities at Washington must decide. Commissioner Denver at first



ordered that the payment and issue of supplies should be withheld until Little Crow should again go out and scour all the western country until he had destroyed the remainder of Inkpadoota's band. The representations and protestations of Superintendent Cullen and of the department's special agent, Major Kintzing Pritchette, could not change the unreasonable and stubborn commissioner. Little Crow and party returned to the agencies August 3. They and their women and children continued to go hungry, as the superintendent said, until about September, when, during Denver's absence from Washington, Acting Commissioner Charles T. Mix directed Superintendent Cullen to make the payment and issue the supplies. Denver's unwise and unjust course was to have its effect five years later.

The treaty of 1858 was not pleasing to the majority of the Indians. It was made at Washington by a few Indians picked by the white men for that purpose, and the braves declared that those who made the treaty had no authority to give away the Indian lands without the consent of the Indians as a whole.

By this treaty the Sioux relinquished their lands north of the Minnesota, and confined their reservation to a strip ten miles wide on the south side of that river.

The treaty also elaborated a scheme for forcing the Indian to the white man's way of living. A civilization fund was provided, to be taken from the annuities, and expended in improvements on the lands of such of them as should abandon their tribal relations, and adopt the habits and modes of life of the white race. To all such, lands were to be assigned in severalty, eighty acres to each head of a family. On these farms were to be erected out of the annuities the necessary farm buildings and farming implements, and cattle were to be furnished them.

In addition to these so-called favors the government offered them pay for such labors of value as were performed, in addition to the crops they raised. Indian farmers now augmented rapidly, until the outbreak of 1862, at which time about one hundred and sixty had taken advantage of the provisions of the treaty. A number of farms, some 160, had good, snug brick houses erected upon them. Among these was Little Crow, and many of these farmer Indians belonged to his own band.

The Indians disliked the idea of taking any portion of the general fund belonging to the tribe for the purpose of carrying out the civilization scheme. Those Indians who retained the "blanket," and hence called "blanket Indians," denounced the measure as a fraud upon their rights. The chase was then a God-given right; this scheme forfeited that ancient natural right, as it pointed unmistakably to the destruction of the chase.

The treaty of 1858 had opened for settlement a vast frontier country of the most attractive character, in the Valley of the

Minnesota, and the streams putting into the Minnesota, on either side, such as Beaver creek, Sacred Heart, Hawk and Chippewa rivers and some other small streams, were flourishing settlements of white families. Within this ceded tract, ten miles wide, were the scattered settlements of Birch Coolie, Patterson Rapids, on the Sacred Heart, and others as far up as the Upper Agency at Yellow Medicine, in Renville county. The county of Brown adjoined the reservation, and was, at the time, settled mostly by Germans. In that county was the flourishing town of New Ulm, and a thriving settlement on the Big Cottonwood and Watonwan, consisting of German and American pioneers, who had selected this lovely and fertile valley for their future homes.

In the spring and summer of 1862 the several Sioux bands of Minnesota who had been parties to the Treaties of 1851 and 1858 had, with a few exceptions, all their villages within the prescribed limits of the reservation. The Yanktons were on the Missouri river, in the region where the city of Yankton, South Dakota, is now located. They never came east of Lac qui Parle. The Sissetons were for the most part on the banks of Lake Traverse and Big Stone lake, though some were to the westward. The Wahpations were near the Yellow Medicine, in the region known as the Upper Agency. The Medawakantons and the Wahpakootas, the "Lower Agency Indians," had their bands along the south bank of the Minnesota, stretching from a little east of Yellow Medicine eastward to some four miles below Ft. Ridgely.

The sub-band of Shakopee (Six, commonly called Little Six) was a mile and more west of the mouth of the Redwood river. All about the Lower or Redwood Agency were the other Medawakanton sub-bands. The old Kaposia village of Little Crow was on the south side of the Minnesota, a little west of the small stream called Crow's creek, somewhat above the present village of Morton. Near Crow's village was the band of the Great War Eagle, commonly called Big Eagle (Wam-bde-Tonka), and this had been the band of Gray Iron, of Fort Snelling. Below the agency was the sub-band of Wah-pahah-sha (meaning literally Red War Banner), who was commonly called Wabasha, and who was the head chief of the Medawakanton band. Near him was the village of Wacouta (pronounced Wah-koota, and meaning the Shooter), who was now chief of the old Red Wing band. In this vicinity was the band of Traveling Hail, sometimes called Passing Hail (Wa-su-he-yi-ye-dan). Old Cloud Man was alive, but old and feeble, and had turned over the chieftainship to Traveling Hail, formerly of Cloud Man's band of Lake Calhoun; and farther down the Minnesota, but along the crest of the high bluff bank was the band of Mankato, who had succeeded his father, the historic old Good Road, in the chieftainship of one of the prominent old Fort Snelling bands. The Wahpakootas were

reduced to one band, whose chief was Red Legs (Hu-sha-sha), although Pa-Pay was recognized as one in authority. The Wahpakoota village was below Mankato's on the same side of the river.

In the spring of 1861 the Republican party came into national power. Major William J. Cullen, the Democratic Indian superintendent, was removed, and Clark W. Thompson, of Fillmore county, was appointed in his stead. Joseph R. Brown, agent for the Sioux, was removed, and his place taken by Thomas J. Galbraith, of Shakopee.

The new agent endorsed the policy and adopted the methods of his predecessor almost entirely. Especially did he endeavor to make the Indians self-supporting. Those who were already "farmers" or "breeches Indians" were favored and encouraged in many ways, and those who were still barbaric and blanketed were remonstrated with, and entreated to enter upon the new life.

The autumn of 1861 closed upon the affairs of the farmer Indians quite unsatisfactorily; their crops were light, the Upper Sioux raising little or nothing. The cut worms had destroyed well nigh all the corn fields of the Sissetons, and the same pests, together with the blackbirds, had greatly damaged the crops of the Wahpatons, Medawakantons and Wahpakootas. Agent Galbraith was forced to buy on credit large quantities of pork and flour for the destitute Indians. Under the direction of Missionary Riggs, who lived among them, Agent Galbraith fed 1,500 Sissetons and Wahpatons from the middle of December, 1861, to April 1, 1862, when they were able to go off on their spring hunts. He also fed and cared for a number of the old and infirm and other worthy characters among the Lower Indians; but for the assistance of the government numbers of these wretched savages would have starved during that hard winter of 1861-1862. The "farmer" Indians were kept at work during the winter making fence rails, cutting and hauling saw logs to the saw mills at the Upper and Lower Agency and other work, and in payment received regular issues of supplies for themselves and families.

Prior to 1857 the payment to the Indians under the treaties were made semi-annually. In that year Superintendent Cullen changed this practice to one payment a year, which, until 1862, had commonly been made about the tenth of June. This event was a great red letter day in the Indian calendar. It engaged attention for months before it came; it was a pleasant memory for months afterwards. Every beneficiary attended the payment, and many of the Cut Heads and Yanktonnais, that were not entitled to receive anything, came hundreds of miles and swarmed on the outskirts of the camp, hoping to get something, however little, from the stock to be distributed. So there was always a big crowd present at the payment and a rare good time.

The traders always received a liberal share of the money. For a year the Indians had been buying goods from them on credit, promising to pay in furs at the end of the hunting season. When default was made in the payment, which was invariably the case, the balance was promised in cash "at the payment." The traders were therefore always present near the pay tables, with their books of account, and when the Indian had received his money from the government paymaster he was led over to his trader and asked to pay what he owed. The majority of the Indians were willing to pay their debts, but there were others who would not pay the most honorable debt if they could avoid it; usually the latter class owed their traders more than the thirty dollars they had received. Sometimes for some years a detachment of soldiers had been sent up from Fort Ridgely to preserve order.

In 1861 the Lower Sioux had been paid June 27, and the Upper Sioux July 18. On the seventeenth of June the "St. Peter Guards," a newly recruited company, which became Company E of the Second Minnesota, Captain A. K. Skaro, and the "Western Zouaves" of St. Paul, which became Company D of the Second Regiment, Captain Horace H. Western, arrived by the steamer City Belle at Fort Ridgely as its garrison, taking the place of Company B, Captain Bromley, and Company G, Captain McKune, of the First Regiment, which companies had been stationed at the post since May. Captain McKune's company, however, remained at Ridgely until July 6.

About the first of July the Indians began certain demonstrations indicating that they would make serious trouble if troops were stationed at the agencies and near the pay tables during the coming payments. They seemed to believe that the presence of soldiers on these occasions was to coerce them into paying debts to the traders, and they were opposed to the idea. They soon organized a "soldiers' lodge" (or a-ke-che-ta tepee) to consider the matter. A soldiers' lodge was composed of warriors that were not chiefs or head soldiers, and who met by themselves and conducted all their deliberations and proceedings in strictest secrecy. Their conclusions had to be carried out by the chiefs and head soldiers. If a war was contemplated the soldiers' lodge decided the matter, and from its decision there was no appeal. Many other matters concerning the band at large were settled by the a-ke-che-ta tepee.

It was believed by the whites that the soldiers' lodges on the Sioux reservation had determined on armed resistance to the presence of troops at the pay tables. Agent Galbraith and other white people about the agencies became greatly alarmed, and June 25 the agent called on Fort Ridgely for troops to come at once to Redwood. The St. Peter Guards were promptly sent and remained at the Lower Agency until after the payment, which

passed off quietly. July 3 Major Galbraith again became alarmed at the Indian signs and called for a strong force to come to Yellow Medicine. McKune's company of the First Regiment and Skaro's of the Second Regiment were at once started from Fort Ridgely, but ten miles out were turned back. The next day Captain Western's company started for the Upper Agency, and on the sixth was overtaken by Captain Skaro's and the two companies reached the Yellow Medicine on the seventh, to the great relief of the agent and the other government employes and traders and their families, who were in great fear of the rebellious and menacing Indians, chiefly young men and reckless characters. The payment at the Upper Agency was without disorder; the Indians paid their debts, but some of them were reported as saying that "this is the last time" they would do so.

July 23 the two companies of the Second Regiment marched back to Fort Ridgely. August 13 detachments of both companies, under Captain Western and Lieutenant Cox, were sent by Lieutenant Colonel George, commanding the post at Fort Ridgely, to the Spirit lake district, in Iowa, to protect the settlers in that region from the depredations of certain Indians, who, it was feared, contemplated another raid of the Inkpadoota character. The command was absent for two weeks.

About September 1 the Indians at and above Yellow Medicine became turbulent and frightened. On the eighth Company E, Captain Skaro, was dispatched from Fort Ridgely and reached the Yellow Medicine on the tenth. On the fifteenth Lieutenant J. C. Donahower, with twelve men of Company E, was sent to Big Stone lake as an escort to the government farmer, who was directed to secure from the Sissetons about the lake some horses which had been stolen by them and the Yanktonnais from white settlers on the Missouri in southeastern Dakota. The lieutenant returned to Yellow Medicine with three of the recovered horses. The Sissetons and Yanktons stole about thirty horses that summer from Minnesota and Iowa settlers. September 23 Captain Skaro left Yellow Medicine for Fort Snelling, where he joined his regiment, which, in a few days, was sent to the South.

On the tenth of October, 1861, Companies A and B, of the Fourth Regiment, became the garrison at Fort Ridgely. Captain L. L. Baxter, of Company A, was commander of the post until in March, 1862, when the companies with the remainder of the regiment were sent to the Union army in front of Corinth, Mississippi.

Upon the organization of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry, March 29, 1862, three of the companies of that regiment were assigned to garrison duty at the Minnesota forts. To Fort Abererombie was sent Company D, Captain John Vander Horek; to Fort Ripley, Company C, Captain Hall; to Fort Ridgely, Company B,

Captain John S. Marsh. As Captain Marsh had not yet joined the company, and as Lieutenant Norman K. Culver was on detail as quartermaster, Sergeant Thomas P. Gere led the company on its march, in zero weather, through a deep snow, from Fort Snelling to Fort Ridgely, arriving at the latter post March 25. April 10 Gere became second lieutenant, and on the sixteenth Captain Marsh arrived and assumed command of the post. There were then at the fort, in addition to the officers and men of Company B, Post Surgeon Dr. Alfred Muller, Sutler Ben H. Randall, Interpreter Peter Quinn and Ordnance Sergeant John Jones, and a few soldiers' families living in cabins nearby. Sergeant Jones was in charge of the government stores and of six pieces of artillery of different calibers, the relics of the old artillery school at the post, which had been left by Major Pemberton when he departed for Washington with the last battery organization, in February, 1861.

The Minnesota Indian payments for 1862 were greatly delayed. They should have been made by the last of June, but the government agents were not prepared to make them until the middle of August. The authorities at Washington were to blame. For some weeks they dabbled with the question whether or not a part at least of the payment should be made in greenbacks. Commissioner Dole, Superintendent Thompson and Agent Galbraith protested that the payment should be in specie. Not until August 8 did Secretary Chase, of the Treasury, order Assistant Treasurer Cisco, of New York, to send the Indians' money in gold coin to Superintendent Thompson at St. Paul. The money—\$71,000, in kegs, all in gold coin—left New York August 11 and arrived at St. Paul on the sixteenth. Superintendent Thompson started it the next day for the Indian country in charge of C. W. Wykoff, E. C. Hatch, Justus C. Ramsey, A. J. Van Vorhees and C. M. Daily, and they, with the wagons containing the precious kegs, reached Fort Ridgely, August 18, the first day of the great outbreak. The money and its custodians remained within the fort until Sibley's army came, and then the money, in the original package as stated, was taken back to St. Paul by the parties named who had brought it up.

Meanwhile there was a most unhappy condition of affairs on the reservation. The Indians had been eagerly awaiting the payment since the tenth of June. On the twenty-fifth a large delegation of the chiefs and head men of the Sissetons and Wahpetons visited Yellow Medicine and demanded of Agent Galbraith to be informed whether they and their people were to get any money that year; they alleged they had been told by certain white men that they would not be paid because of the great war then in progress between the North and South. The agent said the payment would certainly be made by July 20. He then gave them



some provisions, ammunition, and tobacco, and sent them back to their villages, promising to notify them when the money came of the exact time of the payment. He then went to the Lower Agency and counseled the people there as he had the people at Yellow Medicine, adding that they should busy themselves in cutting hay for the winter and in keeping the birds from the corn. These Lower Indians had worked hard during the summer but their crops had not turned out well, owing to the numerous birds and insect pests, and their stock of provisions was nearly exhausted. Major Galbraith therefore issued them a supply of mess pork, flour, salt, tobacco and ammunition.

Efforts have been made by many writers to show that the condition of the Indians was no worse than that of the white settler—that the Indian had a better chance to prosper than did the white pioneer.

But the circumstances were much different. The pioneer had come prepared for the rigors of pioneer life. He had come hoping to better himself. It is true that in coming the pioneer brought civilization. But he did not come for that purpose. Much as we admire the pioneer, much as we appreciate the great good that he has done, deep though the debt we owe him may be, many though his hardships were, nevertheless there can be no disguising the motive that brought him. He came because he expected to be more prosperous here than he had been in the place from whence he came.

The Indian had no such hope. He was not equipped for the mode of life that was thrust upon him. He had owned these stretches of land. He had lived in contentment. Through the chase he had obtained a good living. When he gave up the opportunity of securing his accustomed daily livelihood he was accepting the promise of a great nation that in exchange for his land he would be paid certain sums for his support. He had given up his land, he had given up his mode of making a living, he had moved to the reservation, he had kept his part of the bargain; yet the great government was breaking its part of the bargain by every quibble and pretense possible.

The sudden change of life had brought ructions among the Indians themselves. Some seeing that the white man by trickery and superior strength, was bound to rule, urged that the Indians make the best of a bad situation and take up the white man's ways. These Indians were called the farmer Indians.

There were others, however, who saw that the Indian was not adapted to the ways of the whites, and saw only slavery and degradation in the ways of the farmer Indians, many of whom were already dying of tubercular troubles as the result of their unaccustomed mode of life. These blanket Indians, as they were called, believed in the old ways. They wanted the government



to keep its promise and make its payments according to agreement, after which they wanted the government to leave them to lead their own lives in their own way.

So these were arguments among the Indians, such matters as adopting the white man's habits, clothing, and customs, obeying instructions about not fighting the Chippewas, the election of chief speaker of the Medawakanton band.

In the spring Little Crow, Big Eagle, and Traveling Hail were candidates for speaker of the band. There was a heated contest, resulting in the defeat of Little Crow to his great mortification and chagrin and that of his followers, who constituted the greater part of the blanket Indian party. His successful opponent, Traveling Hail, was a civilization Indian and a firm friend of the whites.

In June, as the time for the payment approached, a number of the young Medawakantons and Wahpakootas formed a soldiers' lodge, to consider the question of allowing the traders to approach the pay table. The chiefs and head men, according to custom, were not allowed to participate in the deliberations of this peculiar council, although they were expected to enforce its decisions and decrees. After a few days of secret consultation the council sent a delegation to Fort Ridgely, which, through Post Interpreter Quinn, asked Captain Marsh, the commandant, not to send any soldiers to the payment to help the traders collect their debts. Captain Marsh replied that he was obliged to have some of his soldiers present at the payment, but they would not be used unless there was a serious disturbance of the peace, and on no account would he allow them to be employed to collect the debts owing to the traders by the Indians. This reply greatly gratified the Indians and they returned to their villages in high glee boasting of what they had accomplished.

The traders were indignant at the action of the Indian soldiers. They vowed not to sell the Indians any more supplies on credit. "You will be sorry for what you have done," said Andrew J. Myrick, who was in charge of his brother's trading house at Redwood, "you will be sorry. After a while you will come to me and beg for meat and flour to keep you and your wives and children from starving and I will not let you have a thing. You and your wives and children may starve, or eat grass, or your own filth." The traders tried to induce Captain Marsh to revoke his decision in their favor, but he would make them no promises.

In July the Lower warriors convened another soldiers' lodge. This time the subject of discussion was whether or not they should go on the war-path against the Chippewas, who had recently given a lot of trouble. Incidentally the trouble about their debts came up, and it was finally decided that if the soldiers guarded

the pay tables, and their bayonets were employed as instruments for the collection of debts, the Indians would be forced to submit. This was the soldiers' lodge about whose purpose and plans so many startling and alarming statements were afterwards made by the whites. At the time too, the whites were afraid. On one occasion the Indians went down to Fort Ridgely and asked to be allowed to play ball (or la crosse) on the parade grounds. Captain Marsh refused to allow this, and it was afterwards printed that on the occasion mentioned the Indians had planned and schemed to get into the fort by stratagem, and then massacre the garrison and every white person in the neighborhood.

The Upper Indians were in far worse moods than their brethren at Redwood. In addition to their dissatisfaction in regard to the delay in the payment—for they needed assistance most sorely—they were incensed against the white authorities who had forbidden them to make war on the Chippewas. The latter made frequent forays upon the Sioux of the upper country. In May a hunting party of Red Iron's band was attacked on the Upper Pomme de Terre by a band of Chippewas and chased from the country, losing two men killed. About the twentieth of July the Chippewas slipped down and killed two Sioux within eighteen miles of Yellow Medicine.

These instances stirred the blood of the Upper bands and four days later several hundred of them formed a war party and, stripped and painted, and yelling and shouting, marched by the Agency buildings and the camp of the soldiers and down the Minnesota in the direction of Major Brown's stone mansion and big farm, near where the Chippewas were supposed to be. The majority of the Indians were mounted, but those who were on foot went galloping along by the side of the cantering ponies and kept up with them easily. The Chippewas had retreated and could not be overtaken.

About the fifteenth of August, only a few days before the outbreak, a man and his son of Red Iron's band were killed by the Chippewas, while hunting, a few miles north of the river. Their bodies were taken back to their village and exposed in public for a whole day. Hundreds of Sioux came to see them. A war party of a dozen or more set out after the murderers, followed them up into the Otter Tail lake country, and did not return to the reservation until nearly two weeks after the outbreak.

Certain writers have frequently declared that the outbreak was a long meditated and carefully planned movement of the Sioux and Chippewas in combination; that Little Crow and Hole-in-the-Day were in constant communication and engaged in preparing for the uprising for weeks before it occurred. The incidents given of the tragic events, the homicides, and the fights between the two tribes up to the very date of the Sioux outbreak

prove the absurd falsity of the claim that they were engaged as allies in plotting against the whites.

In the first part of July in this memorable year a brief period of excitement and danger began at the Yellow Medicine Agency. The Upper Indians became turbulent and menacing, and serious results were avoided only by the greatest care and the intelligent exercise of sound judgment.

As early as June 18, Captain Marsh, in command at Fort Ridgely, deemed it best, in anticipation of trouble among the Indians at the payment, to strengthen his forces. On the eighteenth Captain Hall ordered Lieutenant T. J. Sheehan, with fifty men of Company B of the Fifth Regiment, from Fort Ripley to re-enforce the garrison at Fort Ridgely. The Lieutenant and his men arrived on the twenty-eighth, and the next day Captain Marsh started them and fifty men of Company B, under Lieutenant T. P. Gere for the Yellow Medicine, which post they reached July 2. They carried with them a piece of artillery, a twelve-pound mountain howitzer, and plenty of ammunition. Lieutenants Sheehan and Gere were directed to obey the orders of Agent Galbraith and to preserve peace and protect United States property, "during the time of the annuity payment for the present year." Sheehan ranked Gere, and was given command of the detachment.

When the soldiers reached the Yellow Medicine, they found the Upper Indians already arriving in large numbers in anticipation of the annuity payment, which was the prevailing and absorbing topic. On the eighth a detachment of warriors, through Interpreter Quinn, had a lengthy interview with the young officers. The Indians said: "We are the braves who do the fighting for our people. We sold our land to the Great Father, but we don't get the pay for it. The traders are allowed to sit at the pay table, and they take all our money. We wish you to keep the traders away from the pay table, and as we are now hungry we want you to make us a present of a beef." The lieutenant answered that the payment regulations were in charge of Agent Galbraith, whose orders they must obey; that they had no beeves or other provisions, save their own army rations, which they needed for themselves, but that they would tell the agent what the warriors had said.

Every day brought accessions to the number of Indians about the Agency. On July 14, when Agent Galbraith arrived, he was astonished and alarmed to find that nearly all of the Upper Indians had arrived, that they were greatly destitute, and that they were clamoring for "Wo-kay-zhu-zhu! Wo-kay-zhu-zhu," the payment! the payment! The agent asked them reproachfully: "Why have you come? I sent you away and told you not to come back until I sent for you again. I have not sent for you—

why have you come?" The Indians replied: "It was such a long time that we did not hear from you, that we feared something was wrong. Then, because of the war in the south, some white men say that we will not get our money at all. We want to find out about all this. We are destitute and hungry. You may not have money, but you have provisions in that big house, and this is the time of the year that we should receive both our money and supplies; we want some of the supplies now. We will not leave our camps until we get our money and all."

Major Galbraith sent word of his predicament to Superintendent Thompson and asked for instructions. The superintendent answered that the agent was on the ground and must do as he thought best. The agent then issued, in scanty quantities, some rations of pork and flour and some cloth and other supplies to the most destitute and deserving. The Indians were grateful, and gave numerous dances and other entertainments as returns for the favors.

To add to Major Galbraith's perplexities, the presence of a large number of Yanktonnais and other non-annuity Indians was reported. On the day after his arrival he inspected the various camps and found, to his disgust and dismay, that there were 659 lodges of annuity Indians, 78 lodges of Yanktonnais, 37 of Cut Heads, and five of unidentified people, said to be Winnebagoes. There were more than 4,000 annuity Sioux and about 1,000 Yanktonians and Cut Heads. Even a portion of Inkpadoota's band was reported to be out on the prairies.

By July 18, the Indians had eaten nearly all of their dogs and everything else of an edible character in their camps, and there was actual starvation among them. Still there was no payment and no issue of supplies. Down in the Minnesota bottoms, almost hidden in the high and succulent grass, were hundreds of fat cattle belonging to the settlers and to be had for the killing, and less than a day's march away were provisions of other kinds, enough to feed an army, and to be had for the taking. Lieutenant Sheehan feared that the strain would not endure much longer, and sent down to Ridgely and brought up another howitzer. Galbraith, however, did not believe there was any danger, as the Indians were apparently quiet and peaceable. On the twenty-first the lieutenants interviewed Galbraith and plainly told him that did he not at once relieve the most pressing necessities of the Indians, he would be responsible for any casualty that might ensue. The agent agreed that he would at once take a census of the annuity people, issue an abundant supply of provisions, and then send them back to their villages to await the arrival of their money.

On the twenty-sixth the counting took place. The enumeration was confined to the annuity Indians; the Yanktonnais and

Cut Heads were ignored. All of the people eligible to payment were assembled near the Government buildings, and a cordon of soldiers thrown about the entire concourse. Each sub-chief called upon the heads of families in his band to give the number of persons in their respective families and when the number was announced those composing it were sent out of the lines to their camps. The enumeration occupied twelve and a half hours.

The Indian census had been taken, but still Agent Galbraith made no issue of provisions, as he had promised. The man seemed beside himself, in the perplexities of his situation. He was a drinking man, and it is said that he was intoxicated a great portion of the time in an effort to meet the dangers which confronted him with a "Dutch courage."

The next day after the census was taken, or July 27, Major Galbraith sent Lieutenant Sheehan, with fourteen soldiers, four citizens and the ever faithful Good Voiced Hail, as a guide, on a futile and foolish chase after the half dozen of Inkpadoota's band reported to be hovering about the Dakota boundary, south and west of Lake Benton. The men were all mounted and had two baggage wagons. After scouring the country in a vain search for trails or even signs, the detachment set out on the return trip and reached Yellow Medicine August 3. The failure to overtake the outlaws had a bad effect upon the Agency Indians, who derided the work of the soldiers and were confirmed in their belief that in matters pertaining to warfare of any sort, Indians could easily outwit white men.

The fourth of August came but no paymaster was in sight, and there had been no issue of provisions, save a few pieces of hard tack, for two weeks. Early in the morning of the fourth the Indians sent two messengers to Lieutenant Sheehan and informed him that later in the day, they were coming to the Agency to fire a salute and make a great demonstration for the entertainment of the white people, and especially the soldiers. "Don't be afraid," they said, "for although we will do a lot of shooting we won't hurt anybody."

About 9 o'clock the soldiers were startled to see that, suddenly and without having previously been seen, the Indians had surrounded the camp and were pointing guns at them. The sentinels or camp guards were pushed from their beats and told to go to their tents and stay there, and Private James Foster, of Company B, had his gun wrested from him. At the same time several hundred mounted and armed warriors galloped up, yelling and shooting, and began riding wildly about. The real object of this startling and thrilling demonstration was not apparent until the Indian leader dashed up to the west end of the Government warehouse and struck its big door a resounding blow with him tomahawk. Very soon the door was broken down and

the Indians rushed in and began carrying away the big fat sacks of flour and the fatter slices of pork.

According to Lieutenant Gere's account, the situation was now perilous in the extreme. The soldiers were outnumbered seven to one by the excited warriors, who were priming, cocking, and aiming their guns only a hundred feet away. Private Josiah Weakley, of Company C, precipitated a crisis. An Indian had pointed a gun at him, and the soldier swore a big mouth-filling oath and hastily capped and aimed his gun at the savage to resent the insult. He was about to pull the trigger, when Jim Ybright struck down the gun, and thus prevented the destruction of the entire command and of every other white person at or about the Agency. For at that critical moment had a single hostile shot been fired, by either white man or Indian, the great savage outbreak of a fortnight later would have begun and its first victims would have been the people of Yellow Medicine.

Lieutenant Sheehan ordered his little command to "fall in," and promptly every man, gun in hand, sprang into line. There was no shrinking and apparently no fear. It was soon realized that the object of the Indian attack was to secure the provisions in the warehouse wherewith to feed themselves and their famishing women and children. Had the murder of the whites been intended, the bloody work would have been begun at once. It seemed certain that the Indians would not fire the first shot.

But the peace must be preserved, even if it had to be fought for, and the Government property must be protected at all hazards. Lieutenant Gere had direct charge of the two cannon, and the men of his company had been trained by old Sergeant Jones, at Ridgely, to handle them. Taking the tarpaulin cover from one of the guns, which was loaded with canister, Lieutenant Gere aimed it at the warehouse door, through which the Indians were crowding, going for and returning with sacks of flour. From the cannon to the warehouse the distance was not more than 150 yards; the ground was level, and the range point blank.

Instantly there were yells of surprise and shouts of warning, and the Indians fell back on either side of the line of fire and the range of the gun, leaving a wide and distinct lane or avenue between the cannon and the warehouse door. Lieutenant Sheehan now appeared with a detachment of sixteen men, and that brave soldier, Sergeant Solon A. Trescott, of Company B, at their head. Down the lane with its living walls marched Sheehan and his little band straight to the warehouse. Reaching the building the lieutenant went at once to the office of Major Galbraith, too impotent through fear, drink and excitement for any good. Sergeant Trescott and his men summarily drove every Indian from and away from the warehouse. Only about thirty sacks of flour had been taken.



Lieutenant Sheehan stoutly demanded that Galbraith at once give to the Indians the provisions which really belonged to them, and thereby avert not only starvation but probably war. But the agent, now that the soldiers were in line and their leader in his presence, became, through his "Dutch courage," very dignified and brave. He said that if he made any concessions to the Indians they would become bolder in the future, that the savages must be made to respect his position and authority as their agent, and not attempt to coerce him into doing his duty. He then demanded that Lieutenant Sheehan should take his soldiers and make the Indians return the flour they had seized and which their women were already making into bread.

Sheehan had his Irish spirit thoroughly aroused, and at last forced the agent to agree to issue three days' rations of flour and pork to the Indians, if they would return to their camps and send their chiefs for a council the next day. Meanwhile the Indians had assembled by bands about the warehouse and were addressed by their chiefs and head soldiers, all of whom said, in effect: "The provisions in that big house have been sent to us by our Great Father at Washington, but our agent will not let us have them, although our wives and children are starving. These supplies are ours and we have a right to take them. The soldiers sympathize with us and have already divided their rations with us, and when it comes to the point they will not shoot at us, but if they do, we can soon wipe them off the earth."

The three days' rations were issued, but the Indians declined to return to their camps, unless they should first receive all that was due them. They again became turbulent and threatened to again attack and loot the warehouse. Lieutenant Sheehan moved up his entire command directly in front of the warehouse and went into fighting line with his two cannons "in battery." Then the Indians concluded to forego any hostile movement and returned to their camps. Their three days' rations had been well nigh all devoured before midnight.

Agent Galbraith continued in his excited mood and eccentric conduct. Months afterward, in writing his official report and describing the events of the fourth of August, he declared that when the Indians assaulted the warehouse they "shot down the American flag" waving over it. His statement was accepted by Heard, who, in his history, states that the flag was "cut down." Lieutenant Sheehan and the men who were under him at Yellow Medicine all assert that the flag was neither shot down or cut down or injured in any way, but that when the trouble was over for the day the banner was "still there." August 5 the agent was still beside himself. He declared that the loyal old Peter Quinn, who had lived in Minnesota among his white brethren for nearly forty years and was always faithful to his trust,



even to his death in the slaughter at Redwood Ferry—was not to be trusted to communicate with the Indians. He ordered Lieutenant Sheehan, who had brought Quinn from Ridgely, to send him back and he requested that the loyal old man be “put off the reservation.”

Sheehan could bear with the agent no longer. He accommodated him by sending Quinn away, but he sent the old interpreter with Lieutenant Gere, whom he directed to hasten to Fort Ridgely, describe the situation to Captain Marsh, and urge that officer to come at once to Yellow Medicine and help manage Galbraith. The captain reached Yellow Medicine at 1:30 p. m. on the sixth, having come from Fort Ridgely, forty-five miles distant, by buggy in seven hours.

August 7, Galbraith having been forced to agree to a sensible course of action, he, Captain Marsh and Missionary Riggs held a council with the Indians. The agent had sent to Hazelwood for Mr. Riggs and when the good preacher came, said to him appealingly: “If there is anything between the lids of the Bible that will meet this case, I wish you would use it.” The missionary assured the demoralized agent that the Bible has something in it to meet every case and any emergency. He then repaired to Standing Buffalo’s tepee and arranged for a general council that afternoon. The missionary gives this description of the proceedings:

“The chiefs and braves gathered. The young men who had broken down the warehouse door were there. The Indians argued that they were starving and that the flour and pork in the warehouse had been purchased with their money. It was wrong to break in the door, but now they would authorize the agent to take of their money and repair the door. The agent then agreed to give them some provisions and insisted on their going home which they promised to do.”

Captain Marsh demanded that all of the annuity goods, which for so long had been wrongfully withheld, should be issued immediately, and Reverend Riggs endorsed the demand. Galbraith consented, and the Indians promised that if the issues were made they would return to their homes and there remain until the agent advised them that their money had come. The agreement was faithfully carried out by both parties to it. The issue of goods began immediately and was continued through the eighth and ninth. By the tenth all the Indians had disappeared and on the twelfth word was received that Standing Buffalo’s and the Charger’s band, with many others, had gone out into Dakota on buffalo hunts. On the eleventh the soldiers left Yellow Medicine for Fort Ridgely, arriving at that post in the evening of the following day.

All prospects of future trouble with the Indians seemed now

to have disappeared. Only the Upper Indians had made mischief; the Lower Indians had taken no part nor manifested any sympathy with what their brethren had done, but had remained quietly in their villages engaged in their ordinary avocations. Many had been at work in the hay meadows and corn fields. All the Indians had apparently decided to wait patiently for the annuity money. This agreeable condition of affairs might have been established six weeks earlier, but for the unwise, yet well meant work of Agent Galbraith, who should have done at first what he did at last.

Believing that no good reason any longer existed for the presence of so many troops at Fort Ridgely, Captain Marsh ordered Lieutenant Sheehan to lead Company C of the Fifth Minnesota back to Fort Ripley, on the Upper Mississippi, the march to be made on foot, across the country, by the most direct route. At 7 o'clock on the morning of August 17, the detachment set out, encamping the first night at Cumming's Grove, near the present site of Winthrop, Sibley county.

After the troubles at Yellow Medicine were over a number of discharged government employes, French-Canadians, and mixed blood Sioux expressed a desire to enlist in the Union army, under President Lincoln's call for "300,000" more.

The Government was advancing forty dollars of their prospective bounty and pay to recruits, and as quite a number of the would-be volunteers were out of employment and money, the cash offer was perhaps to some as much of a stimulus to enlist as was their patriotism. A very gallant frontiersman named James Gorman, busied himself with securing recruits for the pioneer company, which, because most of its numbers were from Renville county, was called the "Renville Rangers." Captain Marsh had encouraged the organization, and Agent Galbraith had used all of his influence in its behalf. August 12 thirty men enlisted in the Rangers at Yellow Medicine and on the fourteenth twenty more joined the company at Redwood. Galbraith and Gorman, with their fifty men, left Redwood Agency for Fort Snelling, where it was expected the company would join one of the new regiments then being formed. At Fort Ridgely Captain Marsh furnished the Rangers quarters and rations and sent Sergeant James G. McGrew and four other soldiers with them on their way to the fort. At New Ulm they received a few men, and the entire company, in wagons, reached St. Peter in the afternoon of the eighteenth.

Much that is false has been written regarding the cause of the Sioux Outbreak, many idle speculations have been published as absolute fact.

There certainly was no conspiracy between the Chippewas and the Sioux; there were certainly no representatives of the southern

Confederacy urging the Indians to revolt, Little Crow was most assuredly guiltless of having long planned a general massacre. Possibly, for such is human nature, the Indians, smarting under untold wrongs, may have considered the possibilities of driving out the whites and resuming their own ancient freedom. But no details had been planned upon. The officials at Washington and their representatives on the reservation were wholly and solely responsible for the great massacre. The spark which lighted the conflagration was the lawless act of a few renegades, but there would have been no blaze from this spark had not the whites, through guile and dishonesty, been gradually increasing the disgust, discontent and resentment in the Red Men's breast.

The editor of this work holds no brief for the Indian. No one realizes more than he the sufferings of those innocent settlers, those martyrs to civilization, who underwent untold horrors at the hands of a savage and infuriated race. In savage or civilized warfare, no acts of heartless cruelty can be excused or condoned. In the wrongs to which the Indian had been subjected the noble settlers of the Minnesota valley were guiltless.

Civilization can never repay the Minnesota pioneers for the part they had in extending further the dominion of the white man, for the part they took in bringing the country from a wild wilderness to a place of peace, prosperity and contentment.

The treatment of the Indian by the settlers of this county was ever considerate and kind, the red man was continually fed and warmed at the settlers' cabins. There is no condoning the terrible slaughter of these innocent, kind hearted, hospitable whites who in seeking their home in this rich valley were not unmindful of the needs of their untutored predecessors.

It should, however, be remembered that however cruel, lustful and bloodthirsty the Indian showed himself to be, base, treacherous, barbarous as his conduct was, cowardly and murderous though his uprising against the innocent pioneers; nevertheless not his alone was the guilt. The officials who tricked and robbed him, whose stupidity and inefficiency incensed him, whose lack of honor embittered him against all whites, they too, must bear a part of the blame for that horrible uprising.

It should be remembered too, that the white soldiers battling for a great nation taught the Indian no better method than the Indian himself practiced. The Indian violated the flag of truce, and likewise the white soldiers fired on Indians who came to parley under the white flag. The Indians killed women and children, the white soldiers likewise turned their guns against the teepees that contained the Indian squaws and papooses. The Indian mutilated the bodies of those who fell beneath his anger, and there were likewise whites who scalped and mutilated the bodies of the Indians they killed. The Indian fired on unprotected white

men, and there were white men too, who fired on unprotected Indians who had no part in the outbreak.

Neither side was guiltless. And the innocent settlers, especially those heroic families living along the valley of the Minnesota, paid the horrible price for the crimes of both races.

Authority and references. See Chapter X.

## CHAPTER X.

### THE SIOUX OUTBREAK.

Sunday, August 17, 1862, was a beautiful day in western Minnesota. The sun shone brightly, the weather was warm, and the skies were blue. The corn was in the green ear stage; the wild grass was ripe for the hay mowing; the wheat and oats were ready to be harvested.

A large majority of the settlers and pioneers in the Upper Minnesota valley, on the north or east side of the river, were church members. The large German Evangelical settlement, on Sacred Heart creek held religious services on that day at the house of one of the members, and there were so many in attendance that the congregation occupied the dooryard. A great flock of children had attended the Sunday school and received the ninth of a series of blue cards, as evidence of their regular attendance for the nine preceding Sundays. "When you come next Sunday," said the superintendent to the children, "you will be given another blue ticket, making ten tickets, and you can exchange them for a red ticket." But to neither children or superintendent that "next Sunday" never came.

At Yellow Medicine and Hazelwood there was an unusual attendance at the meetings conducted by Riggs and Williamson. At the Lower Agency Rev. S. D. Hinman, the rector of the station, held services in Sioux in the newly erected but uncompleted Episcopal church and among his most attentive auditors were Little Crow and Little Priest, the latter a Winnebago subject, who, with a dozen of his band, had been hanging about the Agency awaiting the Sioux payments. Little Crow was a pagan, believing in the gods of his ancestors, but he always showed great tolerance and respect for the religious opinions of others.

Altogether there was not the slightest indication or the faintest suspicion of impending trouble before it came. There are printed statements to the effect that a great conspiracy had been set on foot, or at least planned; but careful investigation proves these statements, no matter by whom made, to be baseless and unwarranted. Except the four perpetrators nobody was more startled

or surprised upon the learning of the murder of the first whites, than the Indians themselves.

The Rice Creek Indians were deserters from the bands to which they rightfully belonged, because they were discontented with conditions and had grievances against their chiefs or others of their fellow-clansmen. They were, too, malcontents generally. They did not like their own people; they did not like the whites. Not one of them was a Christian, and they had nothing but contempt for their brethren that had become converts. Many of them, however, wore white men's clothing, and a few were good hunters and trappers, although none were farmers. They depended almost altogether for provisions upon their success in hunting and fishing. Detachments from the band were constantly in the big woods, engaged in hunting, although in warm weather the game killed became tainted and nearly putrid before it could be taken home; and from daylight until dark the river bank in front of their village was lined with women and children busily fishing for bullheads.

On Sunday afternoon, August 17, the Rice Creekers held an open council, which was attended by some of Shakopee's band located not far away. It was agreed to make a demonstration to hurry up the payment, and that the next day every able-bodied man should go down to the Lower Agency, from thence to Fort Ridgely, and from thence to St. Paul, if necessary, and urge the authorities to hasten the pay day, already too long deferred. But nothing was said in the council about war. An hour or two later nothing was talked of but war.

About August 12 twenty Lower Indians went over into the big woods of Meeker and McLeod counties to hunt. Half a dozen or more of the Rice Creek band were of the party. One of Shakopee's band, named Island Cloud, or Makh-pea We-tah, had business with Captain George C. Whitecomb, of Forest City, concerning a wagon which the Indian had left with the captain. Reaching the hunting grounds in the southern part of Meeker county, the party divided, Island Cloud and four others proceeding to Forest City and the remainder continuing in the township of Acton.

On the morning of August 17 four Rice Creek Indians were passing along the Henderson and Pembina road, in the central part of Acton township. Three of them were formerly Upper Indians, the fourth had a Medawakanton father and a Wahpaton mother. Their names, in English, were Brown Wing, Breaks Up and Scatters, Ghost That Kills, and Crawls Against; the last named was living at Manitoba in 1891. Two of the four were dressed as white men; the others were partly in Indian costume. None of them was more than thirty years of age, but each seemed older.

As these Indians were passing the house and premises of Robinson Jones, four miles south of the present site of Grove City, one of them found some hen's eggs in a fence corner and proceeded to appropriate them. One of his comrades remonstrated against his taking the eggs because they belonged to a white man and a discussion of the character of a quarrel resulted. To Return I. Holcombe, the compiler of this chapter, in June, 1894, Chief Big Eagle related the particulars of this incident, as follows:

"I will tell you how this was done, as it was told to me by all of the four young men who did the killing. \* \* \* They came to a settler's fence and here they found a hen's nest with some eggs in it. One of them took the eggs when another said: 'Don't take them, for they belong to a white man and we may get into trouble.' The other was angry, for he was very hungry and wanted to eat the eggs, and he dashed them to the ground and replied: 'You are a coward. You are afraid of the white man. You are afraid to take even an egg from him, though you are half starved. Yes, you are a coward and I will tell everybody so.' The other said, 'I am not a coward. I am not afraid of the white man, and to show you that I am not, I will go to the house and shoot him. Are you brave enough to go with me?' The one who had taken the eggs replied: 'Yes, I will go with you and we will see who is the brave.' Their two companions then said: 'We will go with you and we will be brave, too.' Then they all went to the house of the white man." (See Vol. 6, Minn. Hist. Socy. Coll., p. 389; also St. Paul Pioneer Press, July 1, 1894.)

Robinson Jones was a pioneer settler in Acton township. He and others came from a lumber camp in northern Minnesota, in the spring of 1857, and made claims in the same neighborhood. January 4, 1861, Jones married a widow named Ann Baker, with an adult son, Howard Baker, who had a wife and two young children and lived on his own claim, in a good log house, half a mile north of his step-father. The marriage ceremony uniting Jones and Mrs. Baker was performed by James C. Bright, a justice of the peace. In the summer of 1862 Mr. and Mrs. Jones adopted into their family a deceased relative's two children, Clara D. Wilson, a girl of fifteen, and her half brother, an infant of only eighteen months. No children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jones after their marriage.

Jones was a typical stalwart frontiersman, somewhat rough and unrefined, but well liked by his white neighbors. His wife was a congenial companion. In 1861 a postoffice called Acton was established at Jones' house; it was called for the township, which had been named by some settlers from Canada for their old home locality. In his house Jones kept a small stock of goods fairly suited to the wants of his neighbors and to the Indian trade. He

also kept constantly on hand a barrel or more of cheap whiskey which he sold by the glass or bottles, an array of which always stood on his shelves. He seldom sold whiskey to the Indians except when he had traded with them for their furs, but Mrs. Jones would let them have it whenever they could pay for it.

August 10, a young married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Viranus Webster, from Wisconsin, in search of a Minnesota homestead, came to Howard Baker's in their fine two-horse wagon and were given a welcome and a temporary home until they could select a claim. As Baker's rooms were small, the Websters continued to use their covered wagon as a sleeping apartment. Webster had about \$160 in gold coin, and some other money, and good outfit, including a fine shotgun.

The Ghost Killer and his three companions went to Jones' house, and according to his statement, made half an hour later, demanded whiskey, which he declined to give them. He knew personally all of the four, and was astonished at their conduct, which was so unusual, so menacing and threatening, that—although he was of great physical strength and had a reputation as a fighter and for personal courage—he became alarmed and fled from his own house to that of his step-son, Howard Baker, whither his wife had preceded him on a Sunday visit. In his flight he abandoned his foster children, Clara Wilson and her baby brother. Reaching the house of his step-son, Jones said, in apparent alarm, that he had been afraid of the Indians who had plainly tried to provoke a quarrel with him.

Although the Jones house, with its stores of whiskey, merchandise, and other articles had been abandoned to them, the Indians did not offer to take a thing from it, or to molest Miss Wilson. Walking leisurely, they followed Jones to the Baker house, which they reached about 11 a. m. Two of them could speak a little English, and Jones spoke Sioux fairly well. What occurred is thus related in the recorded sworn testimony of Mrs. Howard Baker, at the inquest held over the bodies of her husband and others the day following the tragedy:

"About 11 o'clock a. m. four Indians came into our house; stayed about fifteen minutes; got up and looked out; had the men take down their guns and shoot them off at a mark; then bantered for a gun trade with Jones. About 12 o'clock two more Indians came and got some water. Our guns were not reloaded; but the Indians reloaded theirs in the door yard after they had fired at the mark. I went back into the house, for at the time I did not suspect anything, but supposed the Indians were going away.

"The next thing I knew I heard the report of a gun and saw Mr. Webster fall; he stood and fell near the door of the house. Another Indian came to the door and aimed his gun at my hus-



band and fired, but did not kill him; then he shot the other barrel of the gun at him, and then he fell dead. My mother-in-law, Mrs. Jones, came to the door and another Indian shot her; she turned to run and fell into the buttery; they shot at her twice as she fell. I tried to get out of the window but fell down cellar. I saw Mrs. Webster pulling the body of her husband into the house; while I was in the cellar I heard firing out of doors, and the Indian immediately left the house, and then all went away.

"Mr. Jones had told us that they were Sioux Indians, and that he was well acquainted with them. Two of the Indians had on white men's coats; one was quite tall, one was quite small, one was thick and chubby, and all were middle-aged; one had two feathers in his cap, and another had three. Jones said to us: 'They asked me for whiskey, but I could not give them any.' " (See History of Meeker county, 1876, by A. C. Smith, who presided at the inquest and recorded the testimony of Mrs. Baker.)

In a published statement made a few days later (See communication of M. S. Croswell, of Monticello, in St. Paul Daily Press, for September 4, 1862) Mrs. Webster fully corroborates the statements of Mrs. Baker. She added, however, that when the Indians came to the Baker house they acted very friendly, offering to shake hands with everybody; that Jones traded Baker's gun to an Indian that spoke English and who gave the white man three dollars in silver "to boot," seeming to have more money; that Webster was the first person shot and then Baker and Mrs. Jones; that an Indian chased Jones and mortally wounded him so that he fell near Webster's wagon, shot through the body, and died after suffering terribly, for when the relief party came it was seen that in his death agonies he had torn up handfuls of grass and turf and dug cavities in the ground, while his features were horribly distorted.

Mrs. Webster further stated that she witnessed the shooting from her covered wagon; that as soon as it was over the Indians left, without offering any sort of indignities to the bodies of their victims, or to carry away any plunder or even to take away Webster's and Baker's four fine horses, a good mount for each Indian. Mrs. Webster then hastened to her dying husband and asked him why the Indians had shot him. He replied: "I do not know; I never saw a Sioux Indian before, and never had anything to do with one." Mrs. Baker now appeared from the cellar, and, with her two children ran into a thicket of hazel bushes near the house and cowered among them. As soon as Webster was dead and his body had been composed by his wife, she, too, ran to the bushes and joined Mrs. Baker.

The two terror-stricken women were considering, as best their mental condition would permit, what they should do, when a half-witted, half-demented fellow, an Irishman, named Cox,

came along the road. At once the women entreated him for assistance. The poor imbecile only grinned, shook his head and said to them that they were liars and that there had been no Indians here. When they pointed to the bloody corpses he laughed and said: "Oh, they only have the nose-bleed; it will do them good," and then passed on, crooning a weird song to a weirder tune. A few days later, the report was that Cox was a spy for the Indians and he was arrested at Forest City and sent under guard, via Monticello, to St. Paul, where, on investigation, he was released as a harmless lunatic.

Horried and half distracted, Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Webster, with the former's two children, made their way for some miles to the house of Nels Olson (who was afterward killed by the Indians), where they passed the night. The next morning they were taken to Forest City and from thence to Kingston and Monticello. Their subsequent history cannot here be given.

Soon after their arrival at Nels Olson's cabin Ole Ingeman heard the alarming story of Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Webster and galloped away to Forest City with the thrilling news, stirring up the settlers on the way. He reached Forest City at six o'clock in the evening, crying, "Indians on the war-path!" In an hour sixteen of the villagers, with hunting rifles and shotguns, were on their way to Acton. It soon grew dark and nine of the party turned back. The other seven—John Blackwell, Berger Anderson, Amos N. Fosen, Nels Danielson, Ole Westman, John Nelson, and Charles Magnuson—pressed bravely on. Soon they were joined by another party of settlers headed by Thomas McGannon. Reaching the Baker place, the settlers approached the house warily, lest the Indians were still there. In the darkness they stumbled over the bloody bodies of Jones, Webster and Baker, and found the corpse of Mrs. Jones in a pantry.

In the gloom of midnight the pioneers passed on to Acton postoffice, Jones' house. Here they expected to find the Indians dead drunk in Jones' whisky, but not an Indian was there. Prostrate on the floor, in a pool of her virgin blood, and just as she had fallen when the Indian's bullet split her young heart in twain, lay the corpse of poor Clara Wilson. No disrespect had been shown it and she had been mercifully killed outright—that was all. On a low bed lay her little baby brother of two years, with not a scratch upon him. He had cried himself to sleep. When awakened he smiled into the faces of his rescuers, and prattled that Clara was "hurt" and that he wanted his supper. John Blackwell carried him away and the child was finally adopted by Charles H. Ellis, of Otsego, Wright county.

In a corner of the main room of the Jones house stood a half-filled whisky barrel, and on a long shelf, with other merchandise, was an array of pint and half-pint bottles filled with the exhila-

rating beverage. The Indians had not touched a drop of the stuff—so they themselves declared, and so appearances indicated. The numerous printed statements that they were drunk when they perpetrated the murders are all false. Moreover, Jones' statement that they wanted whisky and "acted ugly" because he would not let them have it, may well be disbelieved. After he had fled from the house, disgracefully abandoning Clara Wilson and her baby brother, who were all that could say them nay, the Indians might have seized enough of the whisky to make the entire Rice Creek band drunk; and when they returned from Baker's and killed Miss Wilson they could easily have plundered Jones' house, not only of its whisky, but of all its other contents, but this they did not do. Of all Jones' household goods and his tempting stock of merchandise, not a pin was taken and not a drop of whisky drank. At Baker's they were as sober as judges and asked for water. (See Lawson and Tew's admirable History of Kandiyohi county, pp. 18-19; also Smith's History of Meeker county.)

On Monday, August 18, about sixty citizens assembled at Acton and an inquest was held on the bodies of Jones, Webster, Baker, Mrs. Jones, and Clara Wilson. The investigation was presided over by Judge A. C. Smith, of Forest City, then probate judge and acting county attorney of Meeker county. The testimony of Mrs. Baker and others was taken and recorded and the verdict was that the subjects of the inquest were, "murdered by Indians of the Sioux tribe, whose names are unknown." The bodies had changed and were changing fast under the warm August temperature, and were rather hastily confined and taken about three miles eastward to the cemetery connected with the Norwegian church, commonly called the Ness church, and all five of them were buried "in one broad grave." (See Smith's History, p. 17.) Some years later at a cost of \$500, the State erected a granite monument over the grave to the memory of its inmates.

While the inquest was being held at the Baker house, eleven Indians, all mounted, appeared on the prairie half a mile to the westward. They were Island Cloud and his party. The two Indians that had come to Baker's the previous day, while the Ghost Killer and his companions were there, and had left, after obtaining a drink of water, and before the murders, reported to the main party that they had heard firing in the direction of the Baker house. Ghost Killer and the three others had not since been seen, and Island Cloud and his fellows feared that the whites had killed them in a row, while drunk on Jones' whisky. (Island Cloud's statement to W. L. Quinn and others.) They were approaching the Baker house to learn what had become of their comrades when the crowd at the inquest saw them. Instantly a number of armed and mounted settlers started for them, bent on

vengeance. The Indians, wholly unaware of the real situation, and believing that their four comrades had been murdered and that they themselves were in deadly peril, turned and fled in terror and were chased well into Kandiyohi county. Both whites and Indians in the vicinity of Acton were at this time wholly unaware and altogether unsuspecting of what a great conflagration was then raging the Minnesota valley and which had been kindled by the little fire at Howard Baker's cabin.

All of the attendant circumstances prove that the murder was solely the work of the five persons that did the deed, and that they had no accessories before or after the fact. It was not perpetrated because of dissatisfaction at the delay in the payment, nor because there were to be soldiers at the pay table; it was not occasioned by the sale of the north ten-mile strip of the reservation, nor because so many white men had left Minnesota and gone into the Union army. It was not the result of the councils of the soldiers' lodge, nor of any other Indian plot. The twenty or more Indians who left Rice Creek August 12 for the hunt did not intend to kill white people; if they had so intended, Island Cloud and all the rest would have been present at and have participated in the murders at Baker's and Jones' and carried off much portable property, including horses. The trouble started as has been stated—from finding a few eggs in a white man's fence-corner.

After the murder of Clara Wilson—who, the Indians said, was shot from the roadway as she was standing in the doorway looking at them—the four murderers, possibly without entering the Jones house, went directly to the house of Peter Wicklund, near Lake Elizabeth, which they reached about one o'clock, when the family were at dinner. Wicklund's son-in-law, A. M. Ecklund, who had a team of good young horses, had arrived with his wife, a short time before, for a Sunday visit at her father's. One of the Indians came to the door of the house, cocked his gun, and pointed it at the people seated around the dinner table. Mrs. Wicklund rose and motioned to the savage to point his gun in another direction. He continued, however, to menace the party and thus distract their attention while his companions secured and slipped away with Ecklund's horses. Then, mounted, two on a horse, the four rode rapidly southward. Some distance from Wicklund's they secured two other horses, and then they proceeded as fast as possible to their village at the mouth of Rice Creek, forty miles from Acton.

They reached their village in the twilight after a swift, hard ride, which, according to Jere Campbell, who was present, had well nigh exhausted the horses. Leaping from their panting and dripping studs they called out: "Get your guns! There is war with the whites and we have begun it!" Then they related the events of the morning. They seemed like criminals that had per-

petrated some foul deed and then, affrighted, apprehensive and remorseful, had fled to their kinsmen for shelter and protection. Their story at once created great excitement and at the same time much sympathy for them. Some of their fellow villagers began at once to get ready for war, by putting their guns in order and looking after their ammunition supplies. Ho-choke-pe-doota, the chief of the Rice Creek band—if he really held that position—was beside himself with excitement. At last he concluded to take the four adventurers and go to see Chief Shakopee about the matter. Repairing as speedily as possible to the chief's village, on the south side of the river, near the mouth of the Redwood, they electrified all of its people by their startling story, which, however, many of them had already heard.

Shakopee (or Little Six) was a non-progressive Indian, who lived in a tepee and generally as an Indian—scorning the adjuncts of the white man. The story of the killing stirred him, and the excitement among his band, some members of which were already shouting the war-whoop and preparing to fight, affected him so that, while he declared that he was for war, he did not know what to do. "Let us go down and see Little Crow and the others at the Agency," he said at last. Accordingly Shakopee, the Rice Creek chief, two of the four young men who still smelled of the white people's blood they had spilled, and a considerable number of other Rice Creekers, and members of Shakopee's band, although it was midnight, went down to consult with the greatest of the Sioux, Tah O Yahte Dootah, or Little Crow. Messengers were also sent to the other sub-chiefs inviting them to a war council at Little Crow's house. The chief was startled by the appearance of Shakopee and the others, and at first seemed non-plussed and at a loss to decide. Finally he agreed to the war, said the whites of the Upper Minnesota must all be killed, and he commended the young murderers for shedding the first blood, saying they had "done well." Big Eagle thus relates the incident:

"Shakopee took the young men to Little Crow's frame house, two miles above the Agency, and he sat up in bed and listened to their story. He said war was now declared. Blood had been shed, the annuities would be stopped, and the whites would take a dreadful vengeance because women had been killed. Wabasha, Wacouta, myself, and some others talked for peace, but nobody would listen to us, and soon the general cry was: 'Kill the whites, and kill all these cut-hairs (Indians and half-bloods who had cut their hair and put on white men's clothes) that will not join us.' Then a council was held and war was declared. The women began to run bullets and the men to clean their guns. Parties formed and dashed away in the darkness to kill the settlers. Little Crow gave orders to attack the agency early next morning and to kill the traders and other whites there.

"When the Indians first came to Little Crow for counsel and advice he said to them, tauntingly, 'Why do you come to me for advice? Go to the man you elected speaker (Traveling Hail) and let him tell you what to do.' But he soon came around all right."

Between 6 and 7 o'clock on the morning of August 18, the first shot was fired and the first white man was killed at the Lower Agency and the dreadful massacre began. James W. Lynd, ex-state senator from Sibley county, was a clerk in Myrick's trading house at the agency. He was standing upon a door step watching the movements of some Indians who were coming along with guns in their hands and acting strangely. Suddenly one of them named Much Hail, or Plenty of Hail (Tan-wah-su Ota). (Until a few years since it was generally understood from the best authorities that the fatal shot was fired by Walks Like a Preacher, who died in prison at Davenport, but in 1901 Much Hail, living in Canada, confessed that he was the one that killed Mr. Lynd.) drew up his gun and pointing it at Mr. Lynd, said: "Now, I will kill the dog that would not give me credit." He fired and Mr. Lynd fell forward and died instantly.

The massacre then became general. The whites were taken quite unawares and were easy victims. No women were killed, but some were taken prisoners; others were allowed to escape. The stores presented such enticing opportunities for securing plunder of a greatly coveted sort that the Indians swarmed into and about them, pillaging and looting, and this gave many whites opportunity to escape and make their way to Fort Ridgely, fourteen miles. The ferryman, Hubert Miller (whose name was commonly pronounced Mauley, and whose name was printed in some histories as Jacob Mayley) stuck to his post and ferried people across to the north side until all had passed; then the Indians killed him.

The Indians in large numbers crossed the Minnesota and began their bloody work among the settlers along Beaver and Sacred Heart creeks and in the Minnesota bottoms. A few settlers—and only a few—were warned in time to escape.

Shakopee's band operated chiefly in this quarter and the chief that night said he had killed so many white people during the day that his arm was quite lame. The other Lower bands went down into Brown county and directly across the river.

The dreadful scenes that were enacted in the Upper Minnesota valley on that dreadful eighteenth of August can neither be described nor imagined. Hundreds of Indians visited the white settlement to the north and east and perpetrated innumerable murders and countless other outrages. Scores of women and children were brought in as prisoners and many wagon loads of plunder were driven into the Indian camps. White men, women,

and children of all ages were murdered indiscriminately, and under the most terrible circumstances. The bodies were commonly mutilated—sometimes shockingly—but very few were scalped. Only one mixed blood Indian, Francois La Bathe (pronounced La Bat) a trader at the Lower Agency, was killed. About twenty mixed bloods joined the hostile Indians; the others who would not join were made prisoners. Many mixed blood women were violated and otherwise misused. That night a large number of the settlers' houses and other buildings were burned, but many houses were spared. Some of the Indians declared that they needed them to live in the coming autumn and winter.

There was no resistance worthy of the name. Very few settlers had fire-arms or were accustomed to them. There were many Germans that had never fired a gun in all of their lives. Then, too, the Indian attacks were wholly unexpected. The savages approached their victims in a most friendly and pleasant manner and slew them without warning. Very often, however, the white man knew that he was to be murdered, but he made no attempt to defend himself. Some who were being chased by the Indians, turned and fired a few shots at their pursuers, but without effect. Though hundreds of white people were murdered by the Indians that day, not a single Indian was killed or severely injured.

Down the Minnesota river on both sides below Fort Ridgley as far as New Ulm, and up the river to Yellow Medicine, the bloody slaughter extended that day. The fiendish butcheries and horrible killings beggar description. Here is one of many like instances: Cut Nose, a savage of savages, with half a dozen other Sioux, overtook a number of whites in wagons. He sprang into one of the vehicles in which were eleven women and children and tomahawked every one of them, yelling in fiendish delight as his weapons went crashing through the skulls of the helpless victims. Twenty-five whites were killed at this point. Settlers were slain from near the Iowa line in Jackson county, as far north as Breckenridge, including Glencoe, Hutchinson, Forest City, Manannah and other places. Fourteen were killed at White Lake, Kandiyohi county. The much greater number of whites were slaughtered, however, within the reservations, and in Renville and Brown counties. During the first week, it is estimated that over 600 whites were killed and nearly 200 women and children taken captive.

The Whites at the Yellow Medicine Agency above the Lower Agency, to the number of sixty-two, among them the family of Indian Agent Galbraith, escaped by the aid of John Otherday, a friendly Indian.

When the news of the outbreak reached Fort Ridgley, Captain John S. Marsh, with forty-six of his men of Company B, Fifth Minnesota, started for the Lower Agency. He was ambushed at



Redwood Ferry, twenty-four of his men were killed and he himself was drowned in attempting to cross the river. The survivors of his command hid in the thickets and worked their way back to the fort at night.

The Indians attacked Fort Ridgley on the twentieth and again on the twenty-second of August, the latter day with 800 warriors. The force in the fort numbered 180 men, commanded by Lieutenant T. J. Sheehan. A small battery under Sergeant John Jones, of the regular army, did effective service. There were 300 refugees in the fort. After many hours' fighting, the Indians retired. Had they charged they could have captured the fort, but Indians do not fight in that manner. The saving of Ridgley was the salvation of the country below, as its capture would have enabled the Indians to sweep the valley. The loss of the garrison was three killed and twelve wounded.

The most momentous engagements of the Indian war were the attacks upon New Ulm, as the fate of more than 1,500 people was at stake. The Sioux first assaulted it on the day following the outbreak, but were driven off. That night Judge C. E. Flandrau, of the Supreme Court, arrived with 125 men, and the next day 50 arrived from Mankato. Judge Flandrau was chosen to command. On August 23 the Indians, some 500 strong, again attacked the little city and surrounded it, apparently determined to capture it. The battle lasted five or six hours. The Indians set fire to the houses to the windward, and the flames swept towards the center of the city, where the inhabitants had barricaded themselves, and complete destruction seemed inevitable. The whites, under Flandrau, charged the Indians and drove them half a mile. They then set fire to and burned all the houses on the outskirts in which the Indians were taking shelter. In all, 190 structures were destroyed. Towards evening the Indians retired. Thirty-six whites were killed, including ten slain in a reconnoissance on the nineteenth. Seventy to eighty were wounded.

Owing to a shortage of provisions and ammunition, the city was evacuated on August 25. The sick and wounded and women and children were loaded into 153 wagons and started for Mankato. No more pathetic sight was ever witnessed on this continent than this long procession of 1,500 people forced to leave their homes and flee from a relentless foe, unless it be the pathetic picture, seen so many times on this continent of the Indians being driven from the lands of their ancestors by the no less relentless whites.

Heard's history thus vividly portrays conditions in the Minnesota valley at this period.

"Shakopee, Belle Plaine and Henderson were filled with fugitives. Guards patrolled the outskirts, and attacks were con-

stantly apprehended. Oxen were killed in the streets, and the meat, hastily prepared, was cooked over fires on the ground. The grist mills were surrendered by their owners to the public and kept in constant motion to allay the demand for food. All thought of property was abandoned. Safety of life prevailed over every other consideration. Poverty stared in the face those who had been affluent, but they thought little of that. Women were to be seen in the street hanging on each other's necks, telling of their mutual losses, and the little terror-stricken children, surviving remnants of once happy homes, crying piteously around their knees. The houses and stables were all occupied by people, and hundreds of fugitives had no covering or shelter but the canopy of heaven."

August 26, Lieut.-Gov. Ignatius Donnelly, writing to Gov. Alexander Ramsey, from St. Peter, said:

"You can hardly conceive the panic existing along the valley. In Belle Plaine I found sixty people crowded. In this place leading citizens assure me that there are between 3,000 and 4,000 refugees. On the road between New Ulm and Mankato are over 2,000; Mankato is also crowded. The people here are in a state of panic. They fear to see our forces leave. Although we may agree that much of this dread is without foundation, nevertheless it is producing disastrous consequences to the state. The people will continue to pour down the valley, carrying consternation wherever they go, their property in the meantime abandoned and going to ruin."

When William J. Sturgis, bearer of dispatches from Fort Ridgley to Governor Ramsey, reached him at Fort Snelling on the afternoon of August 19, the government at once placed ex-Governor Henry H. Sibley, with the rank of colonel, in command of the forces to operate against the Indians. Just at this time, in response to President Lincoln's call for 600,000 volunteers, there was a great rush of Minnesotans to Fort Snelling, so that there was no lack of men, but there was an almost entire want of arms and equipment. This caused some delay, but Colonel Sibley reached St. Peter on the twenty-second. Here he was delayed until the twenty-sixth and reached Fort Ridgley August 28. A company of his cavalry arrived at the fort the day previous, to the great joy of garrison and refugee settlers.

August 31 General Sibley, then encamped at Fort Ridgley with his entire command, dispatched a force of some 150 men, under the command of Maj. Joseph R. Brown, to the Lower Agency, with instructions to bury the dead of Captain Marsh's command and the remains of all settlers found. No signs of Indians were seen at the agency, which they visited on September 1. That evening they encamped near Birch Coulie, about 200 yards from the timber. This was a fatal mistake, as subsequent

events proved. At early dawn the Sioux, who had surrounded the camp, were discovered by a sentinel, who fired. Instantly there came a deadly roar from hundreds of Indian guns all around the camp. The soldiers sprang to their feet, and in a few minutes thirty were shot down. Thereafter all hugged the ground. The horses to the number of 87 were soon killed, and furnished a slight protection to the men, who dug pits with spades and bayonets. General Sibley sent a force of 240 men to their relief, and on the same day followed with his entire command. On the forenoon of September 3 they reached the Coulie and the Indians retreated. Twenty-eight whites were killed and sixty wounded. The condition of the wounded and indeed the entire force was terrible. They had been some forty hours without water, under a hot sun, surrounded by bloodthirsty, howling savages. The dead were buried and the wounded taken to Fort Ridgley.

After the battle of Birch Coulie many small war parties of Indians started for the settlements to the Northwest, burning houses, killing settlers and spreading terror throughout that region. There were minor battles at Forest City, Acton, Hutchinson and other places. Stockades were built at various points. The wife and two children of a settler, a mile from Richmond, were killed on September 22. Paynesville was abandoned and all but two houses burned. The most severe fighting with the Indians in the northwestern settlements was at Forest City, Acton and Hutchinson, on September 3 and 4. Prior to the battle at Birch Coulie, Little Crow, with 110 warriors, started on a raid to the Big Woods country. They encountered a company of some sixty whites under Captain Strout, between Glencoe and Acton, and a furious fight ensued, Strout's force finally reaching Hutchinson, with a loss of five killed and seventeen wounded. Next day Hutchinson and Forest City, where stockades had been erected, were attacked, but the Indians finally retired without much loss on either side, the Indians, however, burning many houses, driving off horses and cattle, and carrying away a great deal of personal property.

Twenty-two whites were killed in Kandiyohi and Swift counties by war parties of Sioux. Unimportant attacks were made upon Fort Abercrombie on September 3, 6, 26 and 29, in which a few whites were killed.

There was great anxiety as to the Chippewas. Rumors were rife that Hole-in-the-Day, the head chief, had smoked the pipe of peace with his hereditary enemies, the Sioux, and would join them in a war against the whites. There was good ground for these apprehensions, but by wise counsel and advice, Hole-in-the-Day and his Chippewas remained passive.

General Sibley was greatly delayed in his movements against the Indians by insufficiency of supplies, want of cavalry and

proper supply trains. Early in September he moved forward and on September 23, at Wood Lake, engaged in a spirited battle with 500 Indians, defeating them with considerable loss. On the twenty-sixth, General Sibley, moved forward to the Indian camps. Little Crow and his followers had hastily retreated after the battle at Wood Lake and left the state. Several bands of friendly Indians remained, and through their action in guarding the captives they were saved and released, in all ninety-one whites and 150 half-breeds. The women of the latter had been subjected to the same indignities as the white women.

General Sibley proceeded to arrest all Indians suspected of murder, abuse of women and other outrages. Eventually 425 were tried by a military commission, 303 being sentenced to death and eighteen to imprisonment. President Lincoln commuted the sentence of all but forty. He was greatly censured for doing this, and much resentment was felt against him by those whose relatives had suffered. Of the forty, one died before the day fixed for execution, and one, Henry Milord, a half-breed, had his sentence commuted to imprisonment for life in the penitentiary; so that thirty-eight only were hung. The execution took place at Mankato, December 26, 1862.

The Battle of Wood Lake ended the campaign against the Sioux for that year. Small war parties occasionally raided the settlements, creating "scares" and excitement, but the main body of Indians left the state for Dakota. Little Crow and a son returned in 1863, and on July 3 was killed near Hutchinson by a farmer named Nathan Lamson. In 1863 and 1864 expeditions against the Indians drove them across the Missouri river, defeating them in several battles. Thus Minnesota was forever freed from danger from the Sioux.

In November, 1862, three months after the outbreak, Indian Agent Thomas J. Galbraith prepared a statement giving the number of whites killed as 738. Historians Heard and Flandrau placed the killed at over 1,000.

On February 16, 1863, the treaties before that time existing between the United States and the Sioux Indians were abrogated and annulled, and all lands and rights of occupancy within the State of Minnesota, and all annuities and claims then existing in favor of said Indians were declared forfeited to the United States.

These Indians, in the language of the act, had, in the year 1862, "made unprovoked aggression and most savage war upon the United States, and massacred a large number of men, women and children within the State of Minnesota;" and as in this war and massacre they had "destroyed and damaged a large amount of property, and thereby forfeited all just claims" to their

"monies and annuities to the United States," the act provides that "two-thirds of the balance remaining unexpended" of their annuities for the fiscal year, not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, and the further sum of one hundred thousand dollars, being two-thirds of the annuities becoming due, and payable during the next fiscal year, should be appropriated and paid over to three commissioners appointed by the President, to be by them apportioned among the heads of families, or their survivors, who suffered damage by the depredations of said Indians, or the troops of the United States in the war against them, not exceeding the sum of two hundred dollars to any one family, nor more than actual damage sustained. All claims for damages were required, by the act, to be presented at certain times, and according to the rules prescribed by the commissioners, who should hold their first session at St. Peter, in the State of Minnesota, on or before the first Monday of April, and make and return their finding, and all the papers relating thereto, on or before the first Monday in December, 1863.

The President appointed for this duty, and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Hons. Albert S. White, of the State of Indiana; Eli R. Chase, of Wisconsin, and Cyrus Aldrich, of Minnesota.

The duties of this board were so vigorously prosecuted, that, by November 1 following their appointment, some twenty thousand sheets of legal cap paper had been consumed in reducing to writing the testimony under the law requiring the commissioners to report the testimony in writing, and proper decisions made requisite to the payment of the two hundred dollars to that class of sufferers designated by the act of Congress.

On February 21 following the annulling of the treaty with the Sioux above named, Congress passed an act for the removal of the Winnebago Indians, and the sale of their reservation in Minnesota for their benefit. "The money arising from the sale of their lands, after paying their indebtedness, is to be paid into the treasury of the United States, and expended, as the same is received, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, in necessary improvements upon their new reservation. The lands in the new reservation are to be allotted in severalty, not exceeding eighty acres to each head of a family, except to the chiefs, to whom larger allotments may be made, to be vested by patent in the Indian and his heirs, without the right of alienation."

These several acts of the general government moderated to some extent the demand of the people for the execution of the condemned Sioux yet in the military prison at Mankato awaiting the final decision of the President. The removal of the Indians from the borders of Minnesota, and the opening up for settlement of over a million of acres of superior land, was a prospective

benefit to the State of immense value, both in its domestic quiet and its rapid advancement in material wealth.

In pursuance of the acts of Congress, on April 22, and for the purpose of carrying them into execution, the condemned Indians were first taken from the State, on board the steamboat *Favorite*, carried down the Mississippi, and confined at Davenport, in the State of Iowa, where they remained, with only such privileges as are allowed to convicts in the penitentiary. Many of them died as the result of the confinement.

On May 4, 1863, at six o'clock in the afternoon, certain others of the Sioux Indians, squaws and papposes, in all about seventeen hundred, left Fort Snelling, on board the steamboat *Davenport*, for their new reservation on the Upper Missouri, above Fort Randall, accompanied by a strong guard of soldiers, and attended by certain of the missionaries and employes, the whole being under the general direction of Superintendent Clark W. Thompson.

**Authority and References.** Chapters IX and X are based upon Major Return I. Holcombe's material in Minnesota in Three Centuries. Other works have also been consulted. Among the works which may be read in this connection are:

"The Minnesota Indian Massacre," by Charles S. Bryant and Abel B. Murch, 1863. A variation of this work appears in the "History of the Minnesota Valley," George E. Warner and Charles M. Foote, 1882, as the "History of the Sioux Massacre," by Charles S. Bryant.

"The Sioux Indian Massacre of 1862-63, I. V. D. Heard."

"Indian Outbreaks," by Judge Daniel Buck, 1904.

"The Indians' Revenge," by Rev. Alexander Berghold, 1891.

"The Dakota War Whoop," by Harriet E. Bishop-McConkey.

"Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars," a state publication.

All the published histories of Minnesota contain accounts of the massacre, as do many county histories of Minnesota. The collections of the Minnesota Historical Society are rich in material on the same subject. Major Return I. Holcombe, already mentioned, is still pursuing his investigations of the massacre, and Marion P. Satterlee is also doing most excellent work along the same lines.

## CHAPTER XI.

**THE MASSACRE IN REDWOOD COUNTY.**

The four trading houses at the Redwood Agency in 1862 were those of Captain Louis Robert, William H. Forbes, Nathan Myrick & Co., and Francis La Bathe, the latter a mixed blood Sioux, and a close relative of the great chief, Wabasha.

August 18, 1862, Captain Robert, Nathan Myrick, Major Forbes; Stewart B. Carver, a member of the Myrick firm; and Henry Belland, who was in partial charge of the Forbes store, were all absent. Andrew J. Myrick, a member of the Myrick firm, and Hon. James W. Lynd, a distinguished scholar, and a former member of the Minnesota senate, were in charge of the Myrick store.

The morning of Aug. 18 dawned bright and clear, and the people at the agency set about their usual duties. It was evident, however, that something was astir among the Indians. The road was filled with the stalwart braves, stark naked for the most part, painted in gaudy war colors, and fully armed.

Philander Prescott, the elderly friend of the Indians, and the government interpreter, inquired of Little Crow the meaning of such a display. He was told by the Indian chief to get in his house and stay there. To questions asked by the Rev. J. D. Hinman, the devoted Episcopal missionary, Little Crow made no reply. Alarmed at these manifestations of danger, the clergyman and the interpreter warned the other whites and prepared to flee.

Then the murderous storm broke loose, the first to be killed being James W. Lynd, the store clerk, and John Lamb, a teamster. Lynd was standing in the doorway of the Myrick store about 7 o'clock in the morning. Puzzled at the war-display of the Indians, he was watching a group of them approach the store, when one of them, Plenty of Hail, or Much Hail (Tan-waj-su-Ota) drew a gun, pointed it at Mr. Lynd, said: "Now I will kill the dog that would not give me credit," and shot him dead in his tracks. His body was not mutilated and was subsequently buried where it lay, by Nathan Myrick, of St. Paul. George W. Divoll and a cook named Fritz, were quickly killed, and a search made for Andrew J. Myrick. Myrick had hidden himself in the building, but frightened out when the Indians talked of burning the structure, he started to flee toward the Minnesota river. He was soon killed, his body riddled with arrows, and mutilated with a scythe which was later found transfixed in his heart. His head was cut off, and his mouth filled with grass by an Indian, to



whom a few days earlier in refusing credit at the store he had tauntingly said, in response to the Indian's plea of hunger, "Go eat grass."

In the meanwhile the Indians were trying to get the government horses from the stables. James Lamb, the hostler, remonstrated with them, and according to one authority, stabbed one of the Indians with a pitchfork. Lamb was killed on the spot, and others in the barn also slaughtered. A. H. Wagner, superintendent of farms at the agency, was also killed in endeavoring to prevent the theft of the horses.

While Wagner and Lamb were being killed at or near the barn, John Fenske was pierced in the back by an arrow. Unable to run, he hid in a hay-loft, and there extracted the arrow shaft, leaving the head buried some three inches. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, driven out by the approaching flames, he wrapped himself in an Indian blanket, and thus disguised as a squaw, he made his way through the plundering Indians, arriving at Ft. Ridgely on the fourth day, after many thrilling adventures.

Francis La Bathe, commonly written La Batte, was killed in his store. Although a mixed blood and a blood relative of his murderers as well as closely allied with them through his Indian wife, his life was not spared. His kitchen or living room nearby was afterward used as a court room in which were tried many of the Indian prisoners by the military commission.

James Powell, a young man residing at St. Peter, was at the agency herding cattle. He had just turned the cattle out of the yard, saddled and mounted his mule, as the work of death commenced. Seeing Lamb and Wagner shot down and Fenske wounded near him he turned to flee, when Lamb called to him for help; but, at that moment two shots were fired at him, and, putting spurs to his mule he turned toward the ferry, passing close to an Indian who leveled his gun to fire at him; but the caps exploded, when the savage, evidently surprised that he had failed to kill him, waved his hand toward the river, and exclaimed, "Puckachee! Puckachee!" Powell did not wait for a second warning, which might come in a more unwelcome form, but slipped at once from the back of his animal, dashed down the bluff through the brush, and reached the ferry just as the boat was leaving the shore. Looking over his shoulder as he ran, he saw an Indian in full pursuit on the very mule he had a moment before abandoned.

At about the same time Lathrop Dickinson was killed. J. C. Dickinson, who kept the Government boarding-house, with all his family, including several girls who were working for him, succeeded in crossing the river with a span of horses and a wagon; these, with some others, mostly women and children, who had reached the ferry, escaped to the fort. J. C. Dickinson was after-

ward killed at Birch Cooley, Sept. 2, 1862. He was with the burial party under Major Brown.

Very soon after, Dr. Philander P. Humphrey, physician to the Lower Sioux, with his sick wife, and three children, also succeeded in crossing the river, but never reached the fort. All but one, the eldest, a boy of about twelve years of age, were killed upon the road. They had gone about four miles, when Mrs. Humphrey became so much exhausted as to be unable to proceed further, and they went into the house of a Mr. Magner, deserted by its inmates. Mrs. Humphrey was placed on the bed; the son was sent to the spring for water for his mother. \* \* \* The boy heard the wild war-whoop of the savage break upon the stillness of the air, and, in the next moment, the ominous crack of their guns, which told the fate of his family, and left him its sole survivor. Fleeing hastily toward Fort Ridgely, about eight miles distant, he met the command of Captain Marsh on their way toward the agency. The young hero turned back with them to the ferry. As they passed Magner's house, they saw the Doctor lying near the door, dead, but the house itself was a heap of smouldering ruins; and this brave boy was thus compelled to look upon the funeral pyre of his mother, and his little brother and sister. A burial party afterward found their charred remains amid the blackened ruins, and gave them Christian sepulture. In the charred hands of the little girl was found her china doll, with which she refused to part even in death. The boy went on to the ferry, and in that disastrous conflict escaped unharmed, and finally made his way into the fort.

In the meantime the work of death went on. The whites, taken by surprise, were utterly defenseless, and so great had been the feeling of security, that many of them were actually unarmed, although living in the very midst of the savages.

In the store of William H. Forbes were some five or six persons, among them George H. Spencer, Jr. Hearing the yelling of the savages outside, these men ran to the door to ascertain its cause, when they were instantly fired upon, killing four of their number, and severely wounding Mr. Spencer. Spencer and his uninjured companion hastily sought a temporary place of safety in the chamber of the building. One of the men killed was Joseph E. Belland, who was in charge of the store. Another was Antoine Young. Alexis Dubuque was killed either at the Forbes or the Myrick store.

The store of Louis Robert was savagely attacked. Patrick McClellan, one of the clerks in charge of the store, was killed. There were at the store several other persons; some of them were killed and some made their escape. Among those killed were the Frenchmen Brusson, Patnode, Laundre and Peshette. John Nairn, the Government carpenter at the Lower Sioux

agency, seeing the attack upon the stores and other places, seized his children, four in number, and, with his wife, started out on the prairie, making their way toward the fort. They were accompanied by Alexander Hunter, an attached personal friend, and his young wife. Mr. Nairn had been among them in the employ of the Government, some eight years, and had, by his urbane manners and strict attention to their interests, secured the personal friendship of many of the tribe. Mr. Nairn and his family, assisted by advice from friendly Indians, reached the fort in safety that afternoon, two of his children having previously reached the fort with J. B. Reynolds, who had overtaken them. Mr. Hunter had, some years before, frozen his feet so badly as to lose the toes, and, being lame, walked with great difficulty. When near an Indian village below the agency, they were met by an Indian, who urged Hunter to go to the village, promising to get them a horse and wagon with which to make their escape. Mr. Hunter and his wife went to the Indian village, believing their Indian friend would redeem his promises, but from inability, or some other reason, he did not do so. They went to the woods, where they remained all night, and in the morning started for Fort Ridgely on foot. They had gone but a short distance, however, when they met an Indian, who, without a word of warning, shot poor Hunter dead, and led his distracted young wife, a mixed blood Sioux and a bride of a month, away into captivity. Mrs. Hunter, whose maiden name was Marian Robertson, was afterward rescued at Camp Release.

The murders at the Lower Agency continued for hours. The white-haired interpreter, Philander Prescott (now verging upon seventy years of age), hastily left his house soon after his meeting with Little Crow, previously mentioned in this chapter, and fled toward Fort Ridgely. The other members of his family remained behind, knowing that their relation to the tribe would save them. Mr. Prescott had gone several miles, when he was overtaken. His murderers came and talked with him. He reasoned with them, saying: "I am an old man; I have lived with you now forty-five years, almost half a century. My wife and children are among you, of your own blood; I have never done you any harm, and have been your true friend in all your troubles; why should you wish to kill me?" Their only reply was: "We would save your life if we could, but the white man must die; we cannot spare your life; our orders are to kill all white men; we cannot spare you."

Seeing that all remonstrance was vain and hopeless, and that his time had come, the aged man with a firm step and noble bearing, sadly turned away from the deaf ear and iron heart of the savage, and with dignity and composure received the fatal messenger.

Thus perished Philander Prescott, the true, tried, and faithful friend of the Indian, by the hands of that perfidious race, whom he had so long and so faithfully labored to benefit to so little purpose. Shakopee (Little Six) and Medicine Bottle were captured on the Canadian border by John McKenzie and were tried and hanged for this murder at Ft. Snelling in 1865.

The number of persons who reached Fort Ridgely from the agency was forty-one. Some are known to have reached other places of safety. All suffered incredible hardships; many hiding by day in the tall prairie grass, in bogs and sloughs, or under the trunks of prostrate trees, crawling stealthily by night to avoid the lurking and wily foe, who, with the keen scent of the bloodhound and ferocity of the tiger, followed on their trail, thirsting for blood.

Among those who escaped into the fort were J. C. Whipple, of Faribault, and Charles B. Hewitt, of New Jersey. The services of Mr. Whipple were recognized and rewarded by the Government with a first lieutenant's commission in the volunteer artillery service. The Rev. J. D. Hinman and his family were also among those who escaped.

The situation of the agency was somewhat favorable to the escape of those who were quick-witted, and who were not killed in the first terrible onslaught. The agency was situated on a high bank. North of the agency is a steep incline to the river bottom. This incline is traversed by ravines and was covered with trees and shrubbery. The refugees by hiding in this shelter could make their way, unobserved by the howling and plundering Indians, to the river, where the large ferry awaited. The ferryman, Hubert Miller, carried fugitives over until murdered by the savages, sturdily sticking to his post long after he could have found safety in flight. Even after the ferry stopped running, some of the fugitives crossed hand over hand on the ropes. Among these was Joseph Schneider. Others swam the river or waded it in shallow places.

All that day the work of sack and plunder went on; and when the stores and dwellings and the warehouses of the Government had been emptied of their contents, the torch was applied to the various buildings, and the little village was soon a heap of smoldering ruins.

The bodies of their slain victims were left to fester in the sun where they fell, or were consumed in the buildings from which they had been unable to effect their escape.

So complete was the surprise, and so sudden and unexpected the terrible blow, that not a single one of all that host of naked savages was slain. In thirty minutes from the time the first gun was fired, not a white person was left alive. All were either

weltering in their gore or had fled in fear and terror from that place of death.

William Landmeier, the Reynolds hired man, did not join the Patoile family, and would not leave the Reynolds home until he had been twice warned by Moore that his life was in danger. He then went down to the river bottom, and following the Minnesota river, started for the fort. When some distance on his way he came upon some Indians who were gathering up cattle. They saw him and there was no way of escape. They came to him and told him that if he would assist them in driving the cattle they would not kill him. Making a merit of necessity he complied and went on with them till they were near the Lower agency, when the Indians, hearing the firing at the ferry, suddenly left him and hastened on to take part in the battle then progressing between Captain Marsh and their friends. William fled in an opposite direction, and that night entered Fort Ridgely.

The whites elsewhere were faring as badly as those at the Lower agency. At the Redwood river, ten miles above the agency, on the road to Yellow Medicine, resided Joseph B. Reynolds, in the employment of the Government as a teacher of farming to the Indians. His house was within one mile of Shakopee's village. His family consisted of his wife, a niece—Mattie Williams, of Painesville, Ohio—Mary Anderson and Mary Schwandt, hired girls. William Landmeier, a hired man, and Legrand Davis, a young man from Shakopee, was also stopping with them temporarily.

On the morning of August 18, at about 6 o'clock, John Moore, a half-breed trader, residing near them, came to the house and informed them that there was an outbreak among the Indians, and that they had better leave at once. Mr. Reynolds immediately got out his buggy, and, taking his wife, started off across the prairie in such a direction as to avoid the agency. At the same time Davis and the three girls got into the wagon of Francis Patoile, a trader at Yellow Medicine, who had just arrived there on his way to New Ulm, and they also started out on the prairie accompanied by Antoine Le Blaugh.

After crossing the Redwood river near its mouth, Patoile drove some distance up that stream, and, turning to the left, struck across the prairie toward New Ulm, keeping behind a swell in the prairie which ran parallel with the Minnesota, some three miles south of that stream.

They had, unpursued, and apparently unobserved, reached a point within about ten miles of New Ulm, and nearly opposite Fort Ridgely, when they were suddenly assailed by Indians, who killed Patoile, Davis and Le Blaugh, and severely wounded Mary

Anderson. Mattie Williams and Mary Schwandt were captured unhurt, and were taken back to Waucouta's village.

The poor, injured young woman survived her wounds and the brutal and fiendish violation of her person to which she was subjected by these devils incarnate, but a few days, when death, in mercy, came to her relief and ended her sufferings in the quiet of the grave!

Mattie Williams and Mary Schwandt were afterwards restored to their friends by General Sibley's expedition, at Camp Release. We say, restored to their friends; this was hardly true of Mary Schwandt, who, when release came, found alive, of all her father's family, only one, a little brother; and he had witnessed the fiendish slaughter of all the rest, accompanied by circumstances of infernal barbarity, without a parallel in the history of savage brutality.

On Sunday, Aug. 17, George H. Gleason, Government storekeeper at the Lower agency, accompanied by the family of Agent Galbraith, to Yellow Medicine, and on Monday afternoon, ignorant of the terrible tragedy enacted below, started to return. He had with him the wife and two children of Dr. J. S. Wakefield, physician to the Upper Sioux. When about two miles above the mouth of the Redwood, they met two armed Indians on the road. Gleason greeted them with the usual salutation of "Ho!" accompanied with the inquiry, in Sioux, as he passed, "Where are you going?" They returned the salutation, but Gleason had gone but a very short distance, when the sharp crack of a gun behind him bore to his ear the first intimation of the death in store for him. The bullet passed through his body and he fell to the ground. At the same moment Chaska, the Indian who had not fired, sprang into the wagon, by the side of Mrs. Wakefield, and driving a short distance, returned. Poor Gleason was lying upon the ground, still alive, writhing in mortal agony, when the savage monster completed his hellish work, by placing his gun at his breast, and shooting him again. Such was the sad end of the life of George Gleason; gay, jocund, genial and generous, he was the life of every circle. His pleasant face was seen, and his mellow voice was heard in song, at almost every social gathering on that rude frontier. He had a smile and pleasant word for all; and yet he fell, in his manly strength, by the hands of these bloody monsters, whom he had never wronged in word or deed. Some weeks afterward, his mutilated remains were found by the troops under Colonel Sibley, and buried where he fell. They were subsequently removed by his friends to Shakopee, where they received the rites of Christian sepulture.

Mrs. Wakefield and children were held as prisoners, and were reclaimed with the other captives at Camp Release.

**In the Southern Part of the County.** John F. and Daniel Burns, who were living near Walnut Grove, escaped the massacre by flight.

Charles Zierke, "Dutch Charlie," who lived in what is now Charlestown, heard the news of the uprising, and started for New Ulm. He was pursued and overtaken by the Indians while nearing that city. By sharp running he reached New Ulm, organized a rescue party, returned to the place of the encounter, and frightening away the Indians, rescued his wife and children, and recovered his team and goods.

It was through the southern part of Redwood county that Mrs. Lavina Eastlick and her two sons, Mrs. Alomina Hurd and her two children, Thomas Ireland, and other Lake Shetek refugees made their escape.

**Authority and References.** The material in this chapter is based largely on the "History of the Sioux Masacre," by Charles S. Bryant. For references see preceding chapter. While the editor of this work has used Bryant as his authority, there are many other interesting works on the same subject, notably the famous work by Heard.

## CHAPTER XII.

### REDWOOD FERRY AMBUSCADE.

The startling news of the tragic scenes at the Lower agency reached Fort Ridgely at about 10 o'clock on that day (August 18, 1862), but the extent and formidable character of the great Indian uprising were not understood until several hours later. The messenger who bore the shocking tidings was J. C. Dickinson, the proprietor of a boarding house at the agency, and who brought with him a wagon load of refugees, nearly all women and children. Captain Marsh was in command of the fort, with his company (B, Fifth Minnesota), as a garrison. Lieutenant T. J. Sheehan, with Company C of the same regiment, had been dispatched to Fort Ripley, on the Upper Mississippi, near St. Cloud.

Sending a messenger with orders to Lieutenant Sheehan recalling him to Fort Ridgely and informing him that the Indians were "raising Hell at the Lower agency," Captain Marsh at once prepared to go to the scene of what seemed to be the sole locality of the troubles. He was not informed and had no instinctive or derived idea of the magnitude of the outbreak. Leaving about twenty men, under Lieutenant T. P. Gere, to hold the fort until Lieutenant Sheehan's return, Captain Marsh, with about fifty men of his company and the old Indian interpreter, Peter Quinn.



set out for the agency, distant about twelve or fourteen miles to the northwest. On leaving Fort Ridgely the captain and the interpreter were mounted on mules; the men were on foot, but the captain had directed that teams, with extra ammunition and empty wagons for their transportation, should follow, and General Hubbard's account, in Volume I of "Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars," says that these wagons overtook the command "about three miles out."

In due time the little command came to the Redwood Ferry, but there is confusion in the printed accounts as to the exact time. Sergeant Bishop says it was "about 12 o'clock noon." Heard says it was "at sundown," or about 6 o'clock. Some of the Indians remember the time as in the evening, while others say it was in the afternoon. As the men were in wagons the greater part of the way, the distance, allowing for sundry halts, ought to have been compassed in four hours at the farthest. Half way across the bottom the captain ordered the men from the wagons and marched them on foot perhaps a mile to the ferry house and landing.

Meantime on the way, the soldiers had met some fifty fugitives and seen the bodies of many victims of the massacre.

The motives of the heroic and martyred Captain Marsh have often been discussed by historians and others. He was an officer of sound sense and good judgment, and had already come in intimate contact with Indian life and action, and knew of their discontent and their desperate mood.

While he did not realize the general character of the massacre he must have understood that a considerable number of Indians were engaged in it. The language of his dispatch to Lieutenant Sheehan, however, would indicate that he at that time believed the trouble to be strictly local and confined to the Redwood agency.

Some historians have thought that he had confidence that his force was strong enough to punish the guilty Indians and to bring the others to a sense of law and order. Other historians believe that he realized something of the danger before he left the fort, and that his realization of his danger increased as he continued on the journey, but that as a soldier and an officer he could do nothing else than to keep on until he met the murderous Indians and the God of Battles had determined the issue between them. Possibly he believed that the Indians upon seeing the uniformed soldiers would realize the enormity of their offense and the swift punishment which they were likely to meet at the hands of the organized and equipped military forces. Possibly he believed that the powerful chiefs would come to their senses at the sight of the soldiers and confer with him with a view to co-operating with the government in punishing the guilty.

Peter Quinn, the old interpreter, with his forty years' experience among the Sioux in Minnesota, knew the danger to be serious. On leaving Ft. Ridgely with Captain Marsh and his men he said to Sutler B. H. Randall: "I am sure we are going into great danger; I do not expect to return alive." Then with tears in his eyes he continued: "Good-bye, give my love to all."

R. A. Randall, a son of B. H. Randall, declares that his father remonstrated with Captain Marsh, urging upon him the gravity of the situation and the necessity of staying at the fort to protect the refugees who might seek safety there. Captain Marsh at first listened to the remonstrance and determined to stay at the fort. But later he changed his mind. He was a soldier, his duty was to punish the murderous assassins, and he could not sit idly in the fort while the guilty were allowed to go on their way to further crimes. "It is my duty," he said to Sutler Randall as he started.

There is some evidence that as the ferry was reached the captain realized the peril of the situation and the hopelessness of his task with so inadequate a force, and had given, or was about to give, his men order to retire just as they were fired upon.

Return I. Holcombe, the author of nearly all of this chapter, says: "The weight of evidence tends to prove either that Marsh did not realize the extent of the outbreak and the grave peril of his position, or else he was nobly oblivious to his own welfare and determined to do his duty as he saw it."

When Captain Marsh and the men under him reached the crest of Faribault's Hill they saw to the southward, over two miles away, on the prairie about the agency, a number of mounted Indians; of course, the Indians could and did see Marsh and his party. Knowledge of the coming of the soldiers had already reached the Indians from marauders who had been down the valley engaged in their dreadful work, and preparations were made to receive them. Scores of warriors, with bows and guns, repaired to the ferry landing, where it was known the party must come. Numbers crossed on the ferry boat to the north side of the river and concealed themselves in the willow thickets near by. The boat was finally moored to the bank on the east or north side, "in apparent readiness for the command to use for its crossing, though the dead body of the ferryman had been found on the road," says General Hubbard.

Of the brave and faithful ferryman, Rev. S. D. Hinman, who made his escape from the agency, has written:

"The ferryman, Mayley, who resolutely ferried across the river at the agency all who desired to cross, was killed on the other side, just as he had passed the last man over. He was disemboweled; his head, hands and feet cut off and thrust into the

cavity. Obscure Frenchman though he was, the blood of no nobler hero dyed the battlefields of Marathon or Thermopylae."

When the command reached the ferry landing only one Indian could be seen. This was Shonka-ska, or White Dog, who was standing on the west bank of the river, in plain view. For some time he had been "Indian farmer" at the Lower agency, engaged in teaching his red brethren how to plow and to cultivate the soil generally, receiving therefor a salary from the government. He had, however, been removed from his position, which had been given to Ta-o-pi (pronounced Tah-o-pee, and meaning wounded), another Christian Indian. White Dog bore a general good reputation in the country until the outbreak, and many yet assert that he has been misrepresented and unjustly accused.

A conversation in the Sioux language was held between White Dog and Interpreter Quinn, Captain Marsh suggesting most of the questions put to the Indian through the interpreter. There are two versions of this conversation. The surviving soldiers say that, as they understood it, and as it was interpreted by Mr. Quinn, White Dog assured Captain Marsh that there was no serious danger; that the Indians were willing, and were waiting, to hold a council at the agency to settle matters, and that the men could cross on the ferry boat in safety, etc. On the other hand certain Indian friends of White Dog, who were present, have always claimed that he did not use the treacherous language imputed to him, but plainly told the interpreter to say to the captain that he and his men must not attempt to cross, and that they should "go back quick." However, White Dog was subsequently tried by a military commission on a charge of disloyalty and treachery, found guilty, and hung at Mankato. He insisted on his innocence to the last.

While the conversation between White Dog and Interpreter Quinn was yet in progress the latter exclaimed, "Look out!" The next instant came a volley of bullets and some arrows from the concealed foe on the opposite bank of the river. This was accompanied and followed by yells and whoops and renewed firing, this time from the Indians on both sides of the river. They were armed chiefly with double-barreled shotguns, loaded with "traders' balls," and their firing at the short distance was very destructive. Pierced with a dozen bullets, Interpreter Quinn was shot dead from his saddle at the first fire, and his body was afterward well stuck with arrows. A dozen or more soldiers were killed outright, and many wounded by the first volley.

Although the sudden and fierce attack by overwhelming numbers was most demoralizing, Captain Marsh retained his presence of mind sufficiently to steady his men, to form them in line for defense, and to have them fire at least one volley. But now the Indians were in great numbers on the same side of the river, only

a few yards away. They had secured possession of the log ferry house, from which they could fire as from a block house, and they were in the thickets all about. Many of them were naked, except as to breech clouts. Across the river near the bank were numbers behind the logs belonging to the agency steam saw mill, and a circle of enemies was rapidly being completed about the little band.

Below the ferry a few rods was a dense willow thicket, from two to ten rods in width and running down the north or east bank of the river for a mile or more. Virtually cutting or forcing their way through the Indians Captain Marsh and fourteen of his men succeeded in reaching this thicket, from which they kept up a fight for about two hours. The Indians poured volleys at random from all sides into the thick covert, but the soldiers lay close to the ground and but few of them were struck. Two men, named Sutherland and Blodgett, were shot through the body and remained where they fell until after dark, when they crawled out, and finding an old canoe, floated down the river and reached Fort Ridgely the next day. Of a party of five that had taken refuge in another thicket, three were killed before dark. One of the survivors, Thomas Parsley, remained in the thicket with his dead comrades until late at night, when he, too, escaped and made his way to the fort.

Gradually the imperiled soldiers worked their way through the thick grass and brush of the jungle in which they were concealed until they had gone some distance east of the ferry. Meantime they had kept up a fight, using their ammunition carefully, but under the circumstances almost ineffectually. The Indians did not attempt to charge them or "rush" their position, for this was not the Indian style of warfare. Of the second great casualty of the day Sergeant John F. Bishop says:

"About 4 o'clock p. m., when our ammunition was reduced to not more than four rounds to a man, Captain Marsh ordered his men to swim the river and try and work our way down on the west side. He entered the river first and swam to about the center and there went down with a cramp."

Some of the men went to the captain's assistance, but were unable to save him. He was unwounded and died from the effects of the paralyzing cramps which seized him. Some days afterwards his body was found in a drift, miles below where it sank.

The ground where Captain Marsh and his company were ambuscaded was, as has been stated, at and about the ferry landing on the north side of the Minnesota river, opposite the Lower agency. From the landing on the south side two roads had been graded up the steep high bluff to the agency buildings, and from the north landing the road stretched diagonally across the wide

river bottom to the huge corrugated bluffs, two miles or more away, at Faribault's Hill. The hill was so named for David Faribault, a mixed blood Sioux, and a son of old John Baptiste Faribault, and who lived at the base of the hill. He and his family were made prisoners by the Indians and held during the outbreak. At Faribault's Hill the road divided, one fork leading up the hill and over the prairie to the eastward and northwest, running along the crest of the bluff to Fort Ridgely. The other followed the base of the bluff down the river. There were two or three houses between the ferry landing and the bluff, and at the landing itself was a house. All about the landing on the north side the ground of the main ambush was open; it is now covered with willows and other small growths of the nature of underbrush.

After the drowning of Captain Marsh, the command, consisting of fifteen men, devolved upon Sergeant John F. Bishop. The men then resumed their slow and toilsome progress toward the fort. Five of them, including the sergeant, were wounded, one of them, Private Ole Svendsen, so badly that he had to be carried. The Indians, for some reason, did not press the attack further, after the drowning of Captain Marsh, and all of them, except Ezekiel Rose, who was wounded and lost his way, reached Fort Ridgely (Bishop says at 10 o'clock) that night. Rose wandered off into the country and was finally picked up near Henderson. Five miles from the fort Bishop sent forward Privates James Dunn and W. B. Hutchinson, with information of the disaster, to Lieutenant Gere.

The loss of the whites was one officer (Captain Marsh) drowned; twenty-four men, including twenty-three soldiers, and Interpreter Quinn, killed, and five men wounded. The Indians had one man killed, a young warrior of the Wahpakoota band, named To-wa-to, or All Blue. When the band lived at or near Faribault this To-wa-to was known for his fondness for fine dress and for his gallantries. He was a dandy and a Lothario, but he was no coward.

The affair at Redwood Ferry was most influential upon the character of the Indian outbreak. It was a complete Indian victory. A majority of the soldiers had been killed; their guns, ammunition and equipments had fallen into the hands of the victors; the first attempt to interfere with the savage programme had been signally repulsed, all with the loss of but one man. Those of the savages who had favored the war from the first were jubilant over what had been accomplished and confident of the final and general result. There had been but the feeblest resistance on the part of the settlers who had been murdered that day, and the defense made by the soldiers had amounted to nothing. There was the general remark in the Indian camps that the

whites, with all of their vaunted bravery, were "as easy to kill as sheep."

Before the successful ambushade there had been apprehension among many of the Indians that the outbreak would soon be suppressed, and they had hesitated about engaging in it. There were also those who at least were loyal and faithful to the whites and would take no part in the uprising. But after the destruction of Captain Marsh and his command all outward opposition to the war was swept away in the wild torrent of exultation and enthusiasm created by the victory. Heard says:

"The Indians were highly jubilant over this success. Whatever of doubt there was before among some of the propriety of embarking in the massacre disappeared, and the Lower Indians became a unit upon the question. Their dead enemies were lying all around them, and their camp was filled with captives. They had taken plenty of arms, powder, lead, provisions and clothing. The 'Farmer' Indians and members of the church, fearing, like all other renegades, that suspicion of want of zeal in the cause would rest upon them, to avoid this suspicion became more bloody and brutal in their language and conduct than the others."

If Captain Marsh had succeeded in fighting his way across the river and into the agency, thereby dispersing the savages, it is probable that the great red rebellion would have been suppressed in less than half the time which was actually required. The friendly Indians would doubtless have been encouraged and stimulated to open and even aggressive manifestations of loyalty; the dubious and the timid would have been awed into inactivity and quiescence. As it was, the disaster to the little band of soldiers fanned the fires of the rebellion into a great conflagration of murder and rapine.

Immediately after the destruction of Captain Marsh's company at the ferry Little Crow dispatched about twenty-five young mounted warriors to watch Fort Ridgely and its approaches. About midnight these scouts reported that a company of some fifty men was coming toward the fort on the road from Hutchinson to Ridgely. Little Crow then believed that the garrison at Ridgely did not number more than seventy-five and that it would be a comparatively easy matter to capture the fort with its stores, its canon and its inmates. At the time he did not know that the Renville Rangers had returned from St. Peter and reinforced the garrison.

Tuesday morning, August 19, Little Crow with 320 warriors from all of the Lower bands except Shakopee's—only the best men being taken—set out from the agency village to capture Fort Ridgely. Half way down dissensions arose among the rank and file. A majority wanted to abandon the attack on the fort temporarily and to first ravage the country south of the Minne-

sota, and if possible seize New Ulm. Little Crow urged that the fort be taken first, before it could be reinforced, but this prudent counsel did not avail with those who were fairly ravenous for murder and plunder, which might be accomplished without danger, and cared less about the risk of attacking the fort, which would be defended by men with muskets, even though its capture would be a great military exploit. About 200 of this faction left and repaired to the settlements in Brown county about New Ulm and on the Cottonwood, Little Crow, with about 120 men, remained in the vicinity of the fort watching and waiting.

**Authority and References.** The material for this chapter is based upon "Minnesota in Three Centuries," by Return I. Holcombe, and upon the "Recollections of the Sioux Massacre," by Oscar Garrett Wall. Many other works have also been consulted. Mr. Wall was a member of Captain Marsh's company stationed at Fort Ridgely, but was not with the detail which set with the disaster at the ferry. He, however, heard the story the next day from the survivors. Major Holcombe, in preparing his article, consulted all available printed records and manuscripts, personally interviewed some of the survivors, and also talked with Indians who were present at the ambushade.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### MASSACRE EXPERIENCES.

**Experiences of Mrs. Mary E. Schwandt Schmidt.** Johann Schwandt and his wife Christina with their five children, their son-in-law John Walz, and a friend of the family, John Frass, started in May, 1862, from Fairwater, Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, with their household goods, provisions, two yokes of oxen, a few cows and some calves. After an overland journey, which occupied more than a month, they settled on Middle creek in what is now Flora township.

I was then a girl of fourteen and my brother August was ten years of age. We walked the entire distance, driving the stock and picking flowers by the wayside, and when we were tired we would stop and rest and let the cattle eat. Our dear mother would cook the meal and spread the cloth on the grass, and we would all sit around and enjoy the meal more perhaps than the king in his palace eating from golden plates and drinking from crystal glasses. The land which my father settled on was in the wilderness of the Minnesota river bottomlands and the grass was tall and coarse, and the cattle did not like it, but there was no other. My father chose this place because there was timber there,



and the first thing the men did was to hew down some trees and peel the bark off of them. They then built a log cabin of two rooms, and, as at first we had no doors, they put blankets at the openings, and covered the roof with grass and bark. After a few weeks, when father went to New Ulm to do some trading, he bought some doors and windows and also shingles. I accompanied him to do some shopping for my mother and sister. It took us four days to go and come back, it being about forty miles from where we lived and traveling with oxen was very slow. After we had some doors and windows in our cabin we lived quite comfortably. The men started to break up the land and cut some hay on father's place, and as both Mr. Walz and Mr. Frass had taken a claim up on the prairie they all went up there to break the land, and all were happy and contented, but it was not to be for long.

By this time the Indians had started to become troublesome. They would come in parties of six to eight and beg for something to eat, for they were always hungry. Our family was a large one and mother could not give them very much, but I remember she always gave them bread. However, it was meat they wanted, and that we did not have very much of ourselves. There was another great pest that bothered us greatly. Our cabin was built about forty feet from the timber that I spoke of, and in this timber there were thousands and thousands of wild pigeons, keeping up a constant cooing from the break of dawn until nightfall. I do not know what has become of them, for they seem to be all gone. I think they left when the country became more settled.

My parents had been on their farm about two months when that most terrible day, the eighteenth of August, came. Out of eight persons there was only one left to tell the story. At noon when the family were just about to eat the noon meal, a party of Sioux Indians came and soon all was over. August, ten years old, was struck on the head with a tomahawk and was left as dead. In the night he revived and crawled into the tall grass and reached the fort. He still has the scar on his head. He now lives in British Columbia, at Vancouver.

About three weeks before the outbreak Legrand Davis came to our house and wanted to know if I would go over the river to Joseph B. Reynolds, who kept a stopping place. He wanted a little girl to run errands, dust and so forth, and as they were going to start a school for the Indians I could go to this school at the same time. I needed more schooling and thought this a good chance to acquire it. Mother did not like me to go, but Mr. Davis promised to bring me back in two or three weeks, so she reluctantly gave her consent. Little did I think that it was the last time I would see her dear face on this earth. The Reynolds's treated me very kindly, more like their own child than a

servant, and I liked to live there. After I had lost my parents they wished to adopt me, but I went to live with an uncle in Wisconsin who also took my brother August. The eighteenth of August came on a Monday. We had just had our breakfast at the Reynolds's and Mary Anderson was just putting on the wash boiler preparing to do the week's washing. Suddenly John Mooer, a half-breed, came running in and said we should all get away as fast as we could, for the Indians had broken out and were killing all the settlers as fast as they could. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds got into a buggy and drove off, and Mattie Williams, Mary Anderson and myself got into a lumber wagon with three men that had stopped over night at the house. The team belonged to Francis Patoile, a Frenchman, who hauled goods for the government from one agency to another. The wagon was filled with things they wanted to save, so we started, Mr. Patoile driving the team. We drove from seven in the morning until four in the afternoon, and were about eight miles west of New Ulm when we met a party of Indians. We all jumped from the wagon and ran, but we did not run very far before they were upon us, dragging us back. By that time they had killed all the men and some were scalping them. Mary Anderson was shot through the abdomen and died on the fourth day after the shooting. My clothes were riddled by the bullets, but none harmed me. A skirt which I wore has seven holes shot through it and is now in the possession of the D. A. R. at their museum at the Sibley house, Mendota. This skirt was made of heavy muslin and was part of the cover of our wagon when we settled in Renville county.

When we came back to the wagon the Indians had already broken open all the trunks and were dividing the contents. They had with them about twelve other wagons and a great number of horses. The wagons were loaded with plunder of all kinds which they had stolen from the settlers. They ordered us into the wagons and started back to the agency. It was about ten o'clock by the time that we reached Wacouta's home. It was very dark and there was a tallow candle burning. The house was swarming with Indians. Wacouta chased them out and told us to hide up in the loft and he would bring us water and food in the morning, and we were up there three days and two nights. The wounded girl cried for water, for she had a raging fever. During the second night Mattie Williams and I crawled down and went to a corn field, getting some green corn with which we tried to quench her thirst. On the third night we were told to come down, and were taken to Little Crow's village. Mary Anderson died during the night. Mattie Williams' captor took her to his tepee, where he lived with his squaw, and as my captor had no tepee he said he would kill me to be rid of me. When Snana, one of the Indian squaws heard this, she came and looked me over

carefully and went away, returning in a short time leading an Indian pony, which she gave my captor, and then took me by the hand and brought me to her tepee. I was adopted into the tribe and had to call her mamma, and she dressed me in Indian clothing and made pretty moccasins for me. She wrapped me in a snow-white blanket, which was, of course, stolen, but it did not stay white very long. Snana was married to Good Thunder and had two papooses. I had to take care of the baby papoose. I always tried to do all she told me and to please her in all things. There was a bond of sympathy between us because she had just lost her oldest daughter.

After seven weeks of captivity I was released at Camp Release by General Sibley and his army, with the rest of the white prisoners, and as that occasion has been written up so many times I will not mention it here. Mattie Williams was a niece of Mr. Reynolds and was visiting from Ohio. She was highly educated and had a beautiful character. Mary Anderson was a pretty Swedish girl and was to have been married soon to a young man from Shakopee. I was only a plain little German girl who did not know much at all at that time. My Indian mother parted from me at Camp Release and we did not meet again for thirty-two years, but have met many times later, and I received many nice letters from her. She loved me very much, and I have always felt a gratitude towards her which I could not express in words, for she saved me from a terrible fate when she bought me from my captor with her only pony.—By Mrs. Mary Emilia Schwandt Schmidt, in the History of Renville county, 1916.

**Experiences of George H. Spencer, Jr.** "When I reached the foot of the stairs, I turned and beheld the store filling with Indians. One had followed me nearly to the stairs, when he took deliberate aim at my body, but, providentially, both barrels of his gun missed fire, and I succeeded in getting above without further injury. Not expecting to live a great while, I threw myself upon a bed, and, while lying there, could hear them opening cases of goods, and carrying them out, and threatening to burn the building. I did not relish the idea of being burned to death very well, so I arose very quietly, and taking a bed-cord, I made fast one end to the bed-post, and carried the other to a window, which I raised. I intended, in case they fired the building, to let myself down from the window, and take the chances of being shot again, rather than to remain where I was and burn. The man who went up-stairs with me, seeing a good opportunity to escape, rushed down through the crowd and ran for life; he was fired upon, and two charges of buckshot struck him, but he succeeded in making his escape. I had been up-stairs probably an hour, when I heard the voice of an Indian inquiring for me.

I recognized his voice, and felt that I was safe. Upon being told that I was up-stairs, he rushed up, followed by ten or a dozen others, and approaching my bed, asked if I was mortally wounded. I told him that I did not know, but that I was badly hurt. Some of the others came up and took me by the hand, and appeared to be sorry that I had been hurt. They then asked me where the guns were. I pointed to them, when my comrade assisted me in getting down stairs.

"The name of this Indian is Wakinyatawa, or in English, 'His Thunder.' He was, up to the time of the outbreak, the head soldier of Little Crow, and, some four or five years ago, went to Washington with that chief to see their Great Father. He is a fine-looking Indian, and has always been noted for his bravery in fighting the Chippewas. When we reached the foot of the stairs, some of the Indians cried out, 'Kill him!' 'Spare no Americans!' 'Show mercy to none!' My friend, who was unarmed, seized a hatchet that was lying near by, and declared that he would cut down the first one that should attempt to do me any further harm. Said he, 'If you had killed him before I saw him, it would have been all right; but we have been friends and comrades for ten years, and now that I have seen him, I will protect him or die with him.' They then made way for us, and we passed out; he procured a wagon, and gave me over to a couple of squaws to take me to his lodge. On the way we were stopped two or three times by armed Indians on horseback, who inquired of the squaws 'What that meant?' Upon being answered that 'This is Wakinyatawa's friend, and he has saved his life,' they suffered us to pass on. His lodge was about four miles above the Agency, at Little Crow's village. My friend soon came home and washed me, and dressed my wounds with roots. Some few white men succeeded in making their escape to the fort."—From Bryant's History.

**Experiences of John Ames Humphrey.** John Ames Humphrey, a boy of twelve years at the time of the massacre, was the son of Dr. Philander P. Humphrey, the physician at the Lower Agency. His experiences during the massacre are told in an interesting manner, as follows:

"After a bright, restful Sabbath, the fateful Monday, August 18, 1862, arrived. My mother was ill in bed, but had nearly recovered. I slept with my dear little brother in an upper room. In the small hours of that morning I could not sleep soundly; like a nightmare, apprehension of impending disaster settled down. Shake it off I could not, until in desperation I dressed and went down stairs. Talking about premonition, I quite understand what the word means. Apparently nobody else in the house was awake. I took the water pails, and, quietly leaving the house, went a short distance to a spring, with the intention

of making journeys enough back and forth to fill the tubs for the weekly washing. The weight of my foreboding was so heavy upon me that I walked slowly and lingered when I got to the spring, expecting every instant to see or hear something horrible. Leaving the spring and reaching the top of the hill, I saw Indians in parties of three or four hurrying into our small village from the direction of the encampment of Little Crow and other chiefs. These took up convenient points for observation at first. Soon I saw a teamster approach a wagon, with his pair of horses. Then one party of Indians ran to him and demanded them. He refused the request, when one of them emptied the contents of his gun into his abdomen. His suffering was so dreadful to witness that another Indian soon quieted him with the butt end of a gun. This was the beginning of the outbreak at the Lower Sioux Agency.

"I immediately ran, as fast as my bare feet would carry me, to our house. By this time father had dressed and was in the surgery, and I said to him, 'Father, something awful is going to happen.' He replied, 'Nonsense,' and kept on with his work. I then begged him to step outside the house and look for himself. He would not move. I then told him what I had seen; not before would he move and show any interest. After a good look outside, without saying a word, he walked into the house hurriedly and assisted mother to get up and dress. I meantime looked after the children, and then we all walked out by the back door, leaving everything behind. We started toward the ferry, with intention of crossing and making our way to Fort Ridgely. But father had been too slow. Those precious minutes through his blind sense of security cost the lives of himself, wife, and two of their three children.

"When we reached the ferry, it was to find the ferry man gone and the then typical western flat-bottomed boat, which was propelled across the stream by means of a rope and pulleys, on the opposite bank. All the small canoes and row-boats were there as well. Hopelessness was depicted in father's face, for he could not swim; and he had threatened me with punishment such as I had never experienced (which was saying a great deal), if he ever found that I had 'been in swimming.' Occasionally when my guilty eyes had noticed a searching glance of his shot at me, I had felt that I wilted; but congratulate me, my hair was dry and punishment was postponed. I had learned to swim. There had been nobody to 'give me away,' for I always sneaked off alone, and I did nearly drown once, but the fascination was upon me and I persisted. I now boldly plunged into the river, swam to the other side, secured a small boat and rowed back to them, and we all crossed in silence. Looking back, I somehow feel that, after this exhibition of my skill, all should have been

allowed to escape. Had we been only those few minutes earlier, all our lives would have been saved, for a number of our neighbors who were ahead of us at the ferry escaped to Fort Ridgely by wagon conveyance.

"We were too late, and, therefore, now plodded on foot along the main road toward the fort. The sun's rays soon beat down upon us with such power that they began to affect my mother, while the small children were unable to walk rapidly. When we had covered probably two and a half miles, we stopped, while for by that time mother had become actually faint. We had no breakfast, not even a cup of tea, before starting. We then discovered a path and at the end of it, only a few yards distant, a cabin, which we reached to find it vacant, as its occupants had fled. Until then we had neither seen nor heard Indians, and prospects for escaping seemed to brighten. My father took down a pail and directed me to follow a foot-path till I should find the spring and to return with water. I secured water, down in a ravine which proved to be well wooded, as was also the pathway leading to the spring. Returning a little more than half the distance, I heard the crack of a rifle, and listening, presently heard the sound of voices, both from the direction of the cabin. I knew we had been overtaken and debated whether or not I should complete the return and try to help. Quickly I decided that my presence would be useless. Then I deposited the full pail a few yards from the path, ran back to the spring and from it ran along the ravine. There I was hidden from sight, and could make plans in comparative safety. I must have been alone an hour or two, when I decided that the Indians would not have waited longer in the expectation that I would return to the family. Then I decided to carefully seek the open road toward Fort Ridgely and below the cabin. In doing so I met the owner of the cabin, Magner by name, who, accompanied by another man, was sheltering as I had been. I joined them, before long we ventured to the main road.

"Looking down the road, we discovered men coming toward us, who proved to be Captain Marsh with about fifty soldiers, hastening to the Agency to quell the disturbance there, which had been reported early in the forenoon by the first refugees who had fled to the fort. Magner and his companion imparted to Captain Marsh what information they had and we all joined the expedition.

"This to me was a return journey, but I knew it was the safest way to get a look at that cabin and learn the fate of our family. To go there was the matter of only a few minutes. The little force halted when the footpath was reached, and, with Magner and a few soldiers detailed for the purpose, I approached the spot where the building had been. The murderers had set



fire to it, and the smouldering ruins which had fallen into the cellar, contained the mortal remains of my mother and brother and sister. That was the first suggestion, as we all stood there, and subsequent investigation (made a few days later) proved that it was correct. My father's body lay a few feet away. A bullet had pierced the center of his forehead, and the fiends had cut his throat. His axe, a poor weapon for such conditions, but the only one he possessed, lay near him, showing that he went outside the cabin and met them like a brave man. How long I stood there, I do not know; the shock was so great that I became momentarily insensible to material surroundings and saw only in spirit the scene of death—truly I was alone with my dead.

"When I came to my normal self, every living person had vanished, and I ran fast up the road to overtake the soldiers. This had been their first introduction into the land of desolation, which was extending rapidly. Soon the road descended along the valley bluff which follows the north side of the Minnesota river. The sight of dead men, women, and children, now became frequent all the way to the ferry which we had crossed a few hours before. The effect was depressing, and the few words spoken were in undertone. Those poor souls fleeing for their lives had been shot down from the cover of underbrush and tall coarse grass which grow rankly in these western river valleys.

"The ferry boat had been left temptingly on the north side of the river, and Indians were in plain sight on the opposite side, on the bluff which rises abruptly to the Agency. A parley took place, through Interpreter Quinn, between Captain Marsh and the Indian leader. It is now apparent that the object of the Indian was to induce Captain Marsh to send his force across, and when the boat was in mid-stream, to pick his men off from both banks. Probably not a man would have escaped, and, had the Indians who were hidden in the tall grass on the side where we were, not been too impulsive I believe that their plan would have succeeded. There was not a suspicion that we were surrounded by them until they rose suddenly and poured their fire across into us. More than half of our men fell, and it seems a miracle that a single man escaped. But the grass that had hidden them hid us, and those who lived were led by Providence out of the ambushade to a point not far down the river. Captain Marsh was unhurt and escaped with a small party of survivors. During the firing I had sat in an army wagon on top of a barrel of provisions. When I saw the immediate effect of the fire from the Indians and realized the position, I joined the survivors and made it a point to keep about in the middle of them so that I should not fail to keep up. Several soldiers did become separated from us in the confusion and excitement.

"Captain Marsh insisted upon crossing the river at the point



just mentioned, in opposition to the judgment of his men. He was in command, however, and would have had his way had he not entered the water first, considerably in advance of his men, and drowned in mid-stream in sight of all. He could not swim, and help did not reach him.

"How it came about I do not know, but the party I was with had now dwindled to perhaps ten or twelve men. We kept on down the river, still on the north side, and about dark, filed up onto the bluff into the Fort Ridgely road. I think Magner was with us. The poor fellows were tired, and having, as it seemed to them, escaped from the jaws of certain death, became a bit demoralized and relaxed their vigilance. Two of them dropped their muskets and were going on without them; I picked them up, and was trudging along having a strong feeling within me that they might be wanted, when they took them from me without saying a word. We reached the fort about midnight, and then ended a long and eventful day.

"I stayed during the siege, but will not give my experience of it, as many others have written faithful and graphic accounts. Final relief came when General Sibley arrived with men and a long line of wagons loaded with provisions for the besieged."—From the Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

**Hinman's Flight.** Among the refugees who arrived in the afternoon from the Agency was Rev. J. D. Hinman, an Episcopal missionary, stationed at Redwood. Having arisen early to start on a journey to Faribault, he was out in the tranquil morning that gave no suspicion that the curtain was about to rise on one of the most appalling massacres, at his own door, ever known to American history. He was ready for his departure between six and seven o'clock, when unusual signs for the hour among the Indians attracted his attention. The Indians were almost naked, and carried their guns. Their numbers increased, and people began to wonder at their unusual appearance, which some interpreted to mean that a raid was to be made on some Chippewa band known to have invaded the neighborhood. The Indians squatted nonchalantly on the steps of the various buildings, their demeanor betraying no sign of hostility.

Now a signal gun broke the silence in the upper part of town. Even this was doubted to be a sign of hostility, until other shooting up the street and the hasty fleeing of people towards the bluff overlooking the river, began to be alarming. White Dog ran past Mr. Hinman at this juncture, and to an inquiring word, replied that "awful work had been started." He was no doubt himself taken by surprise, though later in the day his cunning and his treachery played an important part in the betrayal of Marsh. Little Crow also passed Mr. Hinman about this time, but with a scowl, declined to answer an inquiry of the missionary,

though they knew each other well, and the chief, now sullen, had always been polite and friendly. The firing had now become a fusillade, and people were being shot down on every hand. The traders were the first objects of hatred to fall, riddled with bullets. As the bloody work progressed, the savages grew wild and furious, their hideous yells, the crash of their guns, work of the torch, the shrieks of their helpless victims, begging vainly for mercy, creating a scene horrifying in the extreme. Rev. Hinman fled before the spreading tide of death had reached him, and gaining the river, fortunately found a skiff with which he hastily crossed, making good his escape to the fort.

**Experiences of Miss West.** Miss Emily J. West, a teacher at the Episcopal Mission at the Lower Agency, gives, in a letter, these experiences of that fatal August 18, 1862: "Soon after breakfast I heard firing of guns, but thought nothing of it till Mr. Hinman came in and told me to run. The Indians were then very near our house, taking horses from the Department stable; they were all armed, and ready for battle.

"I ran with Mr. Hinman towards the ferry, but in the confusion was separated from him. I passed three or four Indians, who took no notice of me, but shot a man quite near who was trying to save his horse. I crossed the ferry with only one woman, a neighbor of ours, and two children, one nine and the other eleven. Then, to avoid the river, along which the road to Fort Ridgely ran, we struck off, two or three miles, in the prairie. After walking some distance we came near a log house, and were going to it for safety, when we saw four Indians approaching us from different directions. When they came to us, they recognized me, called me a missionary, said I was good. I offered them my hand; they shook hands with me, told me they were going to that house; that we must not go there, but to the fort; pointed the way, and left us. We afterward heard of their killing inmates of that house.

"These were not Christian or civilized Indians, but they knew me, and thus showed their respect for the occupation in which I was engaged.

"After leaving them, we walked steadily on without any further alarm, but, of course, looking for it all the time, with very little hope of reaching the fort, which, however, we did, about five in the afternoon, under the protection and guidance of our Heavenly Father. You can imagine with what grateful hearts we saw the fort after our weary walk of twenty miles; for we had made it such by the course we took, and our blistered feet could not have carried us much further.

"We remained at the fort ten days, exposed to the attacks of the Indians. There were two severe engagements, when all the women and children, about three hundred, were obliged to lie

flat on the floor of a stone building to avoid the bullets of the Indians. On the 28th, a large body of troops arrived, and gave us an escort to St. Peter, where we found our bishop tending the wounded in the hospital. He gave us his horse and carriage to bring us to Faribault.

"I cannot close without contradicting the reports that have gone abroad respecting the Christian Indians. I did not in a single instance hear of one of them committing any act of violence. Many of them were stripped of their white man's dress, clothed with a blanket, and compelled to aid in breaking in the warehouse to save their lives. It must be remembered they are very few in comparison with the wild ones."—From Tanner's "History of the Diocese of Minnesota."

**Fenske's Escape.** A remarkable but difficult and painful escape was that of John Fenske. At the moment when Wagner and Lamb fell dead near the barn, an arrow pierced Fenske's back. Unable to run far, he hid in a hay-loft. He extracted the arrow himself, but the point which was about three inches long, remained in the wound, causing fearful pain. When he noticed from his hiding place that no white man was alive on the Agency, and that the devouring flames were approaching nearer and nearer to him, he came down from the loft, and, wrapping himself in a blanket, crept away. It was about 4 p. m. The Indians were too busy with plundering to notice him. Covered with the blanket, and the way in which he was compelled to walk on account of his excessive pain, gave him the appearance of a squaw. A burning house between him and the plundering Indians was another circumstance in his favor. But he was obliged to fly towards the prairie, where he met some Indians driving cattle, and they requested him to help them. These took him for a squaw. He reached the Big Wabash, a creek, a gathering place for the Indians. Following the bank of that river he expected to cross the Minnesota below the Agency and escaped to Fort Ridgely, to which place all the fugitives directed their steps. Fenske was, however, held up by an Indian on horseback, who shot at him three times, but without effect. The superstitious Indian believed him to be a magician, and, stricken with fear, he hurried away as fast as his pony could carry him. Fenske reached Fort Ridgely only on the fourth day on account of his excessive pain, and the point of the arrow was removed. He recovered and was afterwards city marshal of New Ulm. On his way to the fort he entered a house, hoping to find some white people and get some nourishment, but all had fled, leaving a kettle with meat on the hearth. When he left that place again he looked around in hopes of seeing some one, and he noticed several Indians busily engaged in plundering a house near by. He also noticed that Indians had

killed a heifer close to where he stood. It did not take him long to decide upon going further.—From "The Indians' Revenge."

**Mrs. De Camp's Experiences.** Many incidents of a tragic, comic, or thrilling character occurred during this long and wearisome siege. When the writer entered the fort, on the nineteenth, with the Renville Rangers, one of the first persons he met was J. W. De Camp, of the Lower Agency. Mr. De Camp was absent from home at the time of the outbreak, and his wife and children were captured by the fiends, but it was not known at that time what had been their fate. He was a man of fine feelings and generous and noble impulses. He fortunately had with him his Sharp's rifle. The friends of the writer were also in the Indian country, and, as we both supposed, were either massacred or captives. As we grasped hands, poor De Camp remarked, with choked utterance, "Well, the red devils have got our families." It was replied, "We will make them pay the forfeit with their lives." "Yes," he replied, with nervous energy; and, turning away with a groan, as of more than mortal pain, remarked, between his clenched teeth, while the tears of anguish rolled down his cheeks, "but, curse them, they have not lives enough in the whole Sioux nation to pay it."

During the siege that ensued that rifle was made to do terrible execution, and woe to the redskin that came within its deadly range. Courageous even to recklessness, wherever the battle raged the fiercest, his form was to be seen, and the crack of his unerring rifle was to be heard.

De Camp passed through the battles of Fort Ridgely unharmed, and went with the burial party to the Lower Agency, hoping to learn, if possible, something of the fate of his family; if they were among the dead, to give sepulture to their remains, and end the horrible suspense haunting him as to their fate. They were not among the murdered, and he went, with the rest of the party, into camp at Birch Coolie that night, and, in the desperate battle which ensued, was mortally wounded and taken to Fort Ridgely, where he died. In the meantime, his wife and children had been taken by the Indians toward the Chippewa river. A favorable opportunity occurring, a friendly Sioux, whose English name is Lorenzo Lawrence, a man of some education, who speaks the English language well, secretly obtained a boat and some provisions, and, taking Mrs. De Camp and her two children and his own family, descended the Minnesota river to Fort Ridgely in safety. Mrs. De Camp reached the fort, not to meet the living husband she had hoped to see, but only to look with tearful eyes upon the heap of earth that hid him from her sight forever.—From Bryant's History.

**Escape of the Reynolds Family.** Joseph B. Reynolds resided, at the time of the Sioux massacre, at the Redwood river, on the

Lower reservation, ten miles above the Lower Agency. He and his wife were located there, in charge of the Government school, near Shakopee's village, which had been established at this point for the benefit of that band. His house was ten miles from any white inhabitant upon that side of the Minnesota. John Moore, a half-bred trader, resided one mile from him, at or near the Indian village. Mrs. Valencia J. Reynolds, wife of Mr. J. B. Reynolds, says:

"On the morning of August 18, I had arisen, and was busily engaged preparing breakfast, when Francis Patoile, of Yellow Medicine, came and called for breakfast for himself and another man with him. It was soon ready, and, while Mr. Patoile and the other persons then at the house were eating, Antoine La Blaugh, who was living with John Moore, came to the house and called for Mr. Reynolds. He said Mr. Moore had sent him to tell us that the Indians had broken out, and had gone down to the Agency, and over to Beaver Creek, to massacre the whites.

"We went back into the house and asked Mr. Patoile if he would take us to New Ulm. He replied that he would not go away without us, as we had but one horse and buggy. When I went into the kitchen, I found nine squaws and one Indian in the room.

"Mr. Reynolds had, in the meantime, sent La Blaugh back after Mr. Moore, who came. Our horse was at the door when he arrived, and we were putting some things in the buggy. He told us to hasten our flight with all possible speed, and directed us what course to take. The three girls, Mattie Williams, Mary Anderson, and Mary Schwandt, got into the wagon with Francis Patoile and his companion and Legrand Davis, making six persons in that wagon. There was also an ox team, driven by a boy who was working for us.

"Into this wagon we put a feather bed, tied up in a quilt, and a trunk belonging to Mattie Williams. This boy was killed near Little Crow's village. Mr. Reynolds and myself took the buggy. When I went out the squaws were clearing every thing off the table, dishes as well as food, and tumbling all into sacks, which they carried for taking away their plunder. One of them asked me if she might have the flour. I replied, 'Yes.' Another said to me, 'Your face is so white you had better put some water on it,' thinking me frightened, perhaps. We got into the buggy and drove toward the Agency. Before we reached the Redwood river, which was but a short distance from the house, we passed the boy with the ox team, and that was the last we ever saw of either wagon. At the river there was a half-breed, named Louis, standing on the opposite bank. Mr. Reynolds asked him what was the trouble. He replied that an Indian had just come from the Lower Agency, who said they were killing all the whites

there. We drove on to the top of the hill, on the east side of the Redwood. Here we saw Shakopee and two other Indians. We stopped, and called Shakopee to us, and asked him what the trouble was. He said he did not know, and kept motioning to us with his hand to go out upon the prairie; but we kept the main road until we came in sight of the Agency buildings. We had seen only one old squaw while going over the road thus far, but now we saw the Indians running toward the Agency, and we turned to the right, and drove out on the prairie and went around behind an elevation which ran parallel with the Minnesota river, and hid us from the observation of those at the Agency. When opposite the buildings, we crawled up to the crest of the ridge on our hands and knees, looked over, and saw an Indian near us, driving in cattle. The doors of the stores were open, and Indians were all about.

"We returned to the buggy and hastened on toward New Ulm. After going on some distance in that direction, we saw Indians in the road going up toward the Agency. We met two squaws, who talked to us in the Sioux language, and urged us to turn back, and asked us where we were going. Mr. Reynolds told them we were going to hunt ducks, as we believed them to be spies. We pressed on, and soon met an Indian, who wished Mr. Reynolds to write him a paper, certifying that he was a good Indian, as he wished to go to Faribault, because the bad Indians were killing the white people at the Agency. 'That,' said he, pointing to a horse at some distance off, 'is mine, and those are my wife and papooses.' He seemed frightened, and had no caps on his gun. He was a man somewhat advanced in age, though not an old man.

"We soon overtook John Nairn, Government carpenter at the Lower Agency, and his family. Escaping with them were another man and a girl, Miss Frorip. We took two of Mr. Nairn's children into our buggy, and drove on.

"We were now near the fort, on the opposite side of the river, and in plain sight, and thought we would go to it, and turned out of the road to do so but a body of water intervening, we turned again toward New Ulm. We met Indians twice, with ox teams, who turned out, giving us one-half the road, as is usual. The last one we met Mr. Reynolds hallooed to, but he would not answer a word. We met two squaws also, who were going toward the Agency, and one of them ran off from the road toward an Indian house. When we had got in sight of the buildings of the settlers, below the reservation, which were about a mile from us, we saw some sixty Indians, on the left of us, nearly half a mile away, on foot, and between us and them were two yoke of cattle attached to a wagon. There was, also, an Indian on our left, on horseback, and another, also on horse-

back, ahead of us, on our right, who had passed into a ravine. Between these two was a naked savage, on foot, about eight rods from us.

"Mr. Reynolds hallooed to him, supposing he was friendly, until he saw him change his gun from the left hand to the right, and look at the caps. The gun was a double-barreled one. Mr. Reynolds then turned his horse around, and the Indian raised his gun to his face and snapped both caps, but they failed to ignite the powder. I turned my head and saw an Indian coming after us on a white horse. He shouted to us to 'Puckachee, puckachee, puckachee.' Mr. Reynolds asked him which way. He pointed toward the Agency, and then rode between us and the savage who had attempted to kill us, with his gun leveled at him all the while, who tried again to get a chance to shoot us, but was foiled by our protector. Then the other two on horseback came up, and all started after us, when we moved off as fast as we could toward the Agency. This chase was kept up for about half a mile, when our friend on the white horse rode in before the other three, and between them and the buggy, and quite a parley took place between them, when they all fell in the rear.

"We had gone, after this, about two miles, when we came into the midst of about twenty squaws and boys and one old man, going toward New Ulm. The squaws turned out of the road, but the old man kept close to the track. Mr. Reynolds reined in the horse as we approached them and asked the man if he wished to kill him. He replied, in good English, 'No, no! Go, go,' and walked on without even stopping. The next rise of ground we reached we looked back, and saw one solitary Indian, on horseback, in pursuit of us. Soon after this we turned off from the road to the right, having decided to attempt to go to Fort Ridgely. After going about one mile we struck the fort road leading from New Ulm. We had gone some distance on this road when the horse gave out and we could not urge him off a slow walk. Mr. Reynolds and myself got out, leaving the children in the buggy. The grass was very tall, reaching above my head. It was a prairie, but flat and low. After passing through the tall grass we looked back to see if they were following us. We saw two Indians standing some distance off, like sentinels guarding the road, their gun-barrels glistening in the sunbeams.

"When we reached the bluffs back from the Minnesota river bottom, the children also got out and we all walked a mile and a half further to the river opposite the fort. Mr. Reynolds then unharnessed the horse, and attempted to swim the river on his back, but both went out of sight together, under the water. Mr. Reynolds then slipped off the horse and swam along by his



side and they both reached the opposite shore. He then went up to the fort to get assistance to bring us across the river. As soon as he was gone I hid myself and the children in the willows, near the river bank. I had moccasins on my feet, sending the children ahead, I followed them, covering their tracks with my own, turning my toes in as much like a squaw as possible. We remained concealed until Mr. Reynolds and the men came down from the fort. They called to us that they could not see us and wished us to come out in sight. We did so, and they came over to us with a boat.

"While we were concealed I had heard the bushes crack near us, and supposed Indians were searching for us; and when we went to get in the boat we saw fresh moccasin tracks all along the water's edge, clear up to where we went into the willows. Mr. Randall, the post sutler, had sent his carriage down to the river for us and we crossed over safely, got into the carriage and rode up the hill to the garrison. I was bare-headed, with an Indian blanket on, and my dress had been badly torn in my journey to the river, but I felt thankful to escape even with life. At the fort I went into the hospital and assisted Mrs. Muller, the wife of the surgeon, in the care of the sick and wounded for one day, and, after that, assisted in making cartridges during the siege. In this way I was very busy until after the last battle at the fort.

"The day after reinforcements reached us we left Fort Ridgley and came below, utterly destitute, the savages having destroyed or appropriated all the property we had in the world, even to our personal clothing, and, as we afterward learned, burned our house, with all its contents." (From Bryant's History.)

**Note.** In Vol. 6, of the Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, will be found, at considerable length, the experiences of Mrs. Mary Schwandt-Schmidt, pp. 461-474; of Mrs. J. E. De Camp-Sweet, pp. 354-380; and of Mrs. Mary McClure, pp. 439-460.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### MONUMENTS AND MARKERS.

Camp Pope was the point on the south side of the Minnesota river, in Redwood county, above the Redwood river, selected by General Sibley for the rendezvous and starting place of his military expedition against the Indians in the spring of 1863.

After the defeat of the Sioux at Wood lake (Sept. 23, 1862), those of them who still remained hostile fled into Dakota under the leadership of Little Crow. General Sibley had but twenty-

six mounted men, and was, for this and other reasons, unable to pursue them. One band, numbering about 150 persons and composed chiefly of those who did not want to fight but were afraid to surrender, separated from the main body and was followed and captured at the Wild Goose Nest lake, in what is now South Dakota, by an expedition under Col. Wm. R. Marshall.

Nearly all of the Indians who went with Little Crow passed the winter of 1862-3 at and about Devil's lake, in North Dakota.

In the early spring of 1863 it was determined by General John Pope, then in command of the Northwest Department, that a second campaign should be undertaken against the Sioux. At a conference between Generals Pope, Sibley and Sully, at Milwaukee, it was decided that, as early in the summer of that year as possible, General Sully should move from Sioux City, with a force composed wholly of cavalry, and General Sibley should march from some point on the Upper Minnesota, with a force of three regiments of infantry, a regiment of cavalry, and two sections of light artillery, and that the objective point of both of these commands would be Devil's lake, where it was supposed the main body of Indians was concentrated and would be encountered.

The place of rendezvous for the forces composing the column of General Sibley was selected by him at a favorable site on the Minnesota above the Redwood—a mile west of north of the present site of Redwood Falls—and the encampment named Camp Pope. Its first occupation was in the latter part of April, and its first commandant was Lieut.-Col. John T. Averill, of the Sixth Minnesota Infantry. The force which finally assembled and which composed General Sibley's column, consisted of the Sixth Minnesota, Colonel Wm. Crooks; the Seventh Minnesota, Lieut.-Col. W. R. Marshall; the Tenth Minnesota, Colonel James H. Baker; the First Regiment of Minnesota Mounted Rangers, Colonel Sam. McPhail, and the Third Minnesota Battery, Captain John Jones. There was also a detachment of Indian and mixed blood scouts under Major Joseph R. Brown.

Camp Pope was established April 19, 1863. It was first occupied by a detachment of the Sixth Minnesota, under Lieut.-Col. Averill, which had brought up considerable stores of supplies on the steamboat Favorite. At that day the Minnesota river was often navigable for light draught steamers as high as the mouth of the Redwood and sometimes beyond. The camp was named in honor of Major-General John Pope, who was then commander of the Military Department of the Northwest.

The work of organizing the Sibley expedition was greatly and unreasonably delayed. It was not until June 16 when the force, numbering about 3,000 men, all Minnesotans, moved from Camp Pope up the Minnesota. But in the meantime the troops

had been drilling every day and otherwise preparing for future duties, and so the time was not wholly misspent. The column marched via Big Stone lake and encamped at Brown's Valley, June 26. A month later occurred the notable engagements with the Indians at Big Mound, Dead Buffalo lake, and Stone lake, in what is now North Dakota.

General Pope's plan for subduing the Sioux was reasonably magnificent in its character and intentions, but, like other military schemes, came to nothing. General Sully's column of cavalry was to proceed up the Missouri far enough to cut off the retreat of the Indians to the westward, and then march eastward and unite with the forces under Sibley and "crush the Indians" at Devil's lake. The supplies for this column were to be taken up the river on steamboats. General Sibley's supplies were to accompany him in wagon trains across the country.

General Sibley carried out his part of the programme and reached Devil's lake in due time, but, of course, finding no considerable number of Indians. But the Missouri was too shallow for navigation, the summer was dry, the grass of the prairies withered, and the horses of Sully's command suffered severely and many of them died. The boats grounded on sandbars and could not proceed; the soldiers had no rations, and Sully's column was forced to turn back without co-operating with Sibley's. General Sibley made a toilsome and exhausting march, but persisted until he succeeded in falling in with the Indians, who were driven back, after successive engagements, until they had been chased far across the Missouri. Then the Minnesotans, having accomplished more than their share of the co-operative movement, and secured their frontiers from further Indian raids, returned to their quarters in their own State.

Camp Pope continued to be one of the posts on the patrol line maintained to protect the settlers from marauding bands of savages. It was probably due to Camp Pope that Redwood Falls was established. In visiting the vicinity of Camp Pope as an Indian fighter, Col. Sam. McPhail first conceived the building of a city where the great drop of the Redwood river afforded such excellent facilities for water power, and where the natural falls made the power immediately available.

### **The Minnesota Valley Historical Society.**

The Minnesota Valley Historical Society had permanently marked many of the historic sites in Redwood and Renville counties, with monuments and tablets. The society was organized at Morton, February 2, 1895, and incorporated under the State law, March 15 of the same year. The first annual meeting was held May 10 following. Hon. C. D. Gilfillan was its president, financial backer and moving spirit, the society being merely a nominal

organization behind which he masked his patriotic purpose and kindly generosity. His friend, Major Return I. Holcombe, the distinguished historian, did the research work in connection with the monuments and tablets, and superintended their erection. He also edited a book, "Sketches, Historical and Descriptive, of the Monuments and Tablets, Erected by the Minnesota Valley Historical Society," which book is among one of Major Holcombe's most valuable contributions to the story of the massacre.

The sites marked in Redwood county are: Robert Forbes' and Myrick's trading house; La Bathe's living room, where, after the hostile Indians were driven from the State, more than a hundred Indian prisoners were tried by the military commission; the frame house in which lived Little Crow; the location of Camp Pope; and the grave of Hon. James W. Lynd. The monument marking the ground of the Redwood Ferry Ambuscade is just across the river from Redwood county.

In the latter part of the year 1898, Charles D. Gilfillan contracted with the P. N. Peterson Granite Company of St. Paul for the construction and placing in position of the granite structures marking these spots, as well as marking a number of historic spots in Renville county.

The character of the markers varies. But all are of granite, all are suitably inscribed, and all are permanent. Some are substantial blocks, while some are imposing monuments.

Following are the inscriptions:

"Here Lie the Remains of Hon. J. W. Lynde, Killed by Sioux Indians, Aug. 18, 1862."

"188 Feet North Stood Robert's Trading Post, Aug. 18, 1862."

"700 Feet North Lived Little Crow, Head War Chief of the Sioux Indians, Aug. 18, 1862."

"Forty Feet North Stood Myrick's Trading Post, Aug. 18, 1862."

"400 Feet North Stood Forbe's Trading Post, Aug. 18, 1862."

"175 Feet North Stood the Building in Which Upwards of 100 Sioux Indians Were Tried by Court Martial, Convicted and Sentenced to Death, Nov., 1862."

"Between This Point and the River on the North and East Was Located Camp Pope, from Which General Sibley Marched against the Hostile Sioux Indians, June 16, 1863."

It will be noted that the name of J. W. Lynd is misspelled on the monument, and the apostrophe is misplaced on the Forbes marker.

**Authority and References.** "Monuments and Tablets Erected by the Minnesota Valley Historical Society," by Return I. Holcombe.

## CHAPTER XV.

**COUNTY ORGANIZATION.**

Alexander Ramsey, the first territorial governor of Minnesota, arrived at St. Paul with his family May 27, 1849. June 1, 1849, he issued a proclamation declaring the territory duly organized. June 11 a second proclamation was issued, dividing the territory into three temporary judicial districts. The first comprised the county of St. Croix. The county of La Pointe and the region north and west of the Mississippi and north of the Minnesota and of a line running due west from the headwaters of the Minnesota to the Missouri river, constituted the second. The country west of the Mississippi and south of the Minnesota formed the third district. Judge Goodrich was assigned to the first, Judge Meeker to the second, and Judge Cooper to the third. A court was ordered to be held at Stillwater on the second Monday, at the Falls of St. Anthony on the third, and at Mendota on the fourth Monday of August. Redwood county was included in the third district, with Judge David Cooper on the bench.

Until June 26 Governor Ramsey and family had been guests of Hon. H. H. Sibley, at Mendota. On the afternoon of that day they arrived at St. Paul in a birch-bark canoe and became permanent residents at the capital. On July 1 a land office was established at Stillwater, and A. Van Vorhees, after a few weeks, became the registrar.

On July 7 a proclamation was issued, dividing the territory into seven council districts, and ordering an election to be held on the first day of August, for one delegate to represent the people in the House of Representatives of the United States, for nine councillors and eighteen representatives, to constitute the Legislative Assembly of Minnesota. Renville county was included in the seventh district.

**Original Counties.** The first territorial legislature assembled September 3, 1849, and adjourned November 1. By an act approved October 27, 1849, the territory was divided into nine counties: Washington, Ramsey, Benton, Itasca, Wabashaw, Dakotah, Wahnahtha, Mahkahto and Pembina. Only the counties of Washington, Ramsey and Benton were fully organized for all county purposes. The others were organized only for the purpose of the appointment of justices of the peace, constables and such other judicial and ministerial offices as might be specially provided for. They were entitled to any number of justices of the peace and constables, not exceeding six, to be appointed by the governor, their term of office was to be two

years unless sooner removed by the governor, and they were made conservators of the peace.

**Wabashaw.** Wabashaw county, as "erected" by the act of October 27, 1849, comprised practically all of the southern part of the present state of Minnesota. Its northern boundary was the parallel running through a point on the Mississippi opposite the mouth of the St. Croix, and a point a trifle north of the mouth of the Yellow Medicine river; the southern boundary was the Iowa line; its eastern, the Mississippi; and its western the Missouri; and it also included the big peninsula between the Missouri and the Big Sioux rivers, and all of what is at present southeastern South Dakota. This embraced the present Redwood county.

Itasca and Wabashaw were attached to Washington county, the three counties being constituted the Second judicial district, with Hon. David Cooper on the bench.

**Dakotah.** Dakotah county was also "erected" by the act of October 27, 1849. Its eastern boundary was the Mississippi, its northern boundary was a line drawn due west from the mouth of the Clearwater river, its southern boundary was a line drawn due west from a point on the Mississippi opposite the mouth of the St. Croix, while the western boundary was the Missouri river. Dakotah county did not at that time include Redwood county.

The legislature of 1851, by Chapter I of the Revised Statutes, passed January 1, divided the territory into Benton, Dakota, Itasca, Cass, Pembina, Ramsey, Washington, Chisago and Wabashaw counties and defines their borders.

Dakota (the final "h" having been dropped) county was made to consist of all that part of the territory west of the Mississippi river and lying west of a line drawn due south from Medicine Bottle's village at the Pine Bend of the Mississippi river (between the present cities of South St. Paul and Hastings) and south of a line beginning at the mouth of the Crow river (emptying into the Mississippi between Hennepin and Wright counties), and up that river and the north branch thereof to its source, and thence due west to the Missouri river. Under this revision, Dakota county embraced all of the present Redwood county. Dakota county was attached to Ramsey county for judicial purposes.

**Blue Earth.** By an act passed March 5, 1853 (Hennepin county having been established March 6, 1852), the legislature organized the counties of Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Fillmore, Scott, Le Sueur, Rice, Blue Earth, Sibley, Nicollet and Pierce. All the land south of the Minnesota not included in the other counties was created as Blue Earth county. The eastern line of Blue Earth county was practically the line between Ranges 22

and 23, crossing what are now Freeborn and Waseca counties. The northern boundary was the Minnesota river and an irregular line coinciding somewhat loosely with the present southern boundary of Le Sueur county. The southern and western boundaries were the southern and western boundaries of the territory. Thus Blue Earth county then included what is now the western part of Freeborn and Waseca counties and possibly small portions of what is now Le Sueur county, as all of what are now Redwood, Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Pipestone, Rock, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Cottonwood, Jackson, Watowan, Brown, Martin, Blue Earth and Faribault counties, as well as land to the westward outside of the present state. Under this act, Blue Earth was constituted a fully organized county.

**Brown.** February 20, 1855, the legislature passed an act defining the boundaries of the following counties: Olmsted, Dodge, Mower, Freeborn, Blue Earth, Faribault, Steele, Rice, Dakota, Scott, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Sibley, Carver, Renville, Davis, Wright, Stearns, Brown, Goodhue, Newton, Benton, Wabasha, Fillmore, Hennepin, Pierce, St. Louis and Todd. Brown county, as constituted by this act, had for its eastern boundary the line between Ranges 29 and 30, from the Minnesota river to the Iowa boundary. Its northern boundary was the Minnesota river, its southern and western boundaries the southern and western boundaries of the territory. The western line of Blue Earth county was located as at present. The western line of Faribault county was six miles further west than at present. Brown county as constituted by this act included the present Redwood county. February 11, 1856, Brown county was declared a fully organized county, with the county seat at New Ulm.

**Renville.** When Renville county was created February 20, 1855, it did not take in any of the present Redwood county. However, by an act approved March 8, 1860, an entirely new Renville county was proposed. The act read as follows:

"Section 1. That the upper and lower Sioux reservations as defined by the government survey made by 'Sevan & Hutton,' except so much thereof as lies east of Range thirty-four (34) and south of the Minnesota river, be and the same are hereby attached to and become a part of the county of Renville.

"Section 2. At the general election it shall be competent for the legal voters in the said county of Renville to elect all the county officers, justices of the peace and constables, as the county may be entitled to by law, which officers shall qualify and enter upon the duties of their office at the time, and in the manner prescribed by law.

"Section 3. It shall be the duty of the first board of county commissioners which shall be elected in pursuance of this act, as soon after said board shall have been elected and qualified



according to law, as the said board or a majority thereof shall determine, to locate the county seat of said county to all intents and purposes until otherwise provided by law.

"Section 4. The county of Renville is hereby attached to the county of Nicollet, for judicial purposes, until the county officers of said county shall have been elected and qualified as contemplated by this act.

"Section 5. That from and after the election and qualification of the county officers of Renville county as aforesaid the said county shall be included in the Sixth judicial district.

"Section 6. The change in the county lines of Renville county as provided for in section one of this act shall be submitted to the electors of the counties affected by said change at the next general election for their approval or rejection.

"Section 7. This act shall take effect from and after its adoption."

Shortly after this, Renville county was organized, the county seat established at Beaver Falls, and a set of officers is believed to have been elected. The organization was swept away by the massacre.

The upper and lower reservations consisted of a strip of land twenty miles in width, ten miles on each side of the Minnesota river extending from the mouth of the Little Rock (Mud) creek in the western part of Nicollet county to the south end of Lake Traverse, thus taking in a small part of what is now South Dakota. Renville county as constituted by the act of 1860 took in all this strip except that part of it which is now included in Brown county. That part of Redwood county lying in what was originally the reservation strip, was therefore by this act, tentatively included in Renville county. The remainder continued for the time being as a part of Brown county.

**Redwood.** Redwood county was established by act of the legislature approved February 6, 1862. At that time Brown county was established with the present boundaries of that county with the exception of Townships 108 and 109, Ranges 34 and 35. Section 2 provided that all parts of the old Brown county not included in the new Brown county should constitute Redwood county.

By this act, Redwood county consisted, tentatively, of a large tract bounded on the east by the range line between Ranges 33 and 34, from the Township line between Townships 108 and 109. On the south it was bounded by the Township line between Townships 108 and 109 from the Range line between Ranges 33 and 34 westward to the state line. On the west the boundary was the state line running from the Township line between Townships 108 and 109 north to Big Stone lake. The other boundary was the Minnesota river. As created at that time,

consequently Redwood county contained all of the present counties of Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, Lyon and Redwood counties, and Township 109, Ranges 34 and 35 in what is now Brown county.

Previous to the presidential election of 1864 the pioneers of Redwood Falls petitioned Governor Miller for the establishment of an election district, in pursuance of which the governor set off the whole created county, then including the present county with Lyon, Lincoln, Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle counties, and two townships in Brown county as such district. The election of 1864 was held at the house of J. S. G. Honner inside the stockade; the election board being O. C. Martin, T. W. Caster and Ed. McCormick. In reference to the election, Col. McPhail says: "We cast 65 votes, all straight Republican; no intimidation, no bull-doing." The 65 votes is somewhat problematical, as the roster does not show that number of permanent settlers at that time.

It was under the authority of this act that the people of all unorganized areas in the county continued to vote in Redwood Falls for fifteen years or more after the county was in full operation.

Not only did the people of the county hold a presidential election in the fall of 1864, but they likewise elected county officers, an act which later had to be legalized, for, though the county had previously been created, its creation had not been confirmed, and no election of county officers had been ordered.

As approved by an act of the legislature (Chapter LXX), March 4, 1864, the line between Sections 35 and 36, from the Township line between 107 and 108, northward to the Minnesota river, was constituted the west boundary of Brown county, subject to the approval of the voters. This would have given to Brown county, the townships now in Redwood county, lying east of a line drawn north and south through Redwood Falls. The proposition, however, never went into effect.

February 23, 1865, the legislature (Laws of 1865, Chapter 71), passed "An act to change and define the boundary lines of Redwood county and adjoining counties, and to organize Redwood county." It established the boundary lines of Cottonwood and Brown counties as at present, subject to the approval of the voters. The boundary lines of Redwood county were also established, subject to the approval of the voters as follows:

"Beginning at the intersection of the middle line of the Minnesota river and the range line between Ranges 33 and 34; thence in a northwestwardly direction on the middle line of the main channel of the Minnesota river to the western boundary of the state of Minnesota; thence in a southerly direction on the western boundary of the state to the Township line between

Townships 108 and 109; thence east on said line to the Range line between Ranges 35 and 36; thence north on said line to the Township line between Townships 109 and 110; thence east on said line to the Range line between Ranges 33 and 34; thence north on said line to the place of beginning."

By this act the lines between Redwood county, and Brown and Cottonwood counties were established as at present. Redwood county also took in all the present counties of Lyon, Lincoln, Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle counties.

Section 7 read: "The county of Redwood is hereby declared an organized county, and the county seat thereof temporarily located at Redwood Falls; the last election of county officers for Redwood county held at the election precinct of Redwood Falls is hereby confirmed and ratified; and said officers until their successors are elected and qualified, shall have full power and authority to do and perform all the acts and duties of their respective offices within the limits of Redwood county as defined in section one of this act which the officers of other organized counties can do and perform within their respective counties."

The first regular election was held in November, 1865, and the location of the county seat at Redwood Falls confirmed, as well as a set of officers elected.

This legislative act of February 23, 1865, having been duly ratified by popular vote, the boundaries thereof were the legal boundaries of Redwood county at the time of the passage of the General Statutes of 1866, Chapter 8, by Section 55 of which Townships 109-34 and 109-35 were transferred from Brown to Redwood counties. But this change in the lines of the counties was not submitted to popular vote, as required by the Constitution, Art. II, Section 1, in the case of organized counties, and consequently the Section 55 in question never became a law and the boundaries remained as established by the act of 1865.

But acting under the authority of the Revised Statutes of 1866, and without waiting for a popular vote, the county commissioners of Redwood county notified the people of Township 109, Ranges 34 and 35, on September 8, 1869, that they were a part of Redwood county. A bill for expenses during the time when the two townships were so considered was afterward presented to Brown county. Another attempt was later made to include these two townships in Redwood county.

By an act approved March 6, 1871, the people of Brown, Cottonwood and Redwood counties were authorized to vote on the subject of detaching Township 108, Ranges 34 and 35 from Brown and attaching it to Cottonwood; and detaching Township 109, Ranges 34 and 35 from Brown and attaching same to Redwood. Redwood county voted in favor of the proposition in

November, 1871. But the proposition was defeated by the vote in Brown county. According to the *New Ulm Plaindealer* for November 17, 1871, the vote in that county was 307 votes for the proposition, and 748 against it.

Lyon county was created March 2, 1869. It then included Lincoln county. Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine counties were created March 6, 1871. Yellow Medicine continued to be attached to Redwood county for judicial purposes only, until February 25, 1874.

Chapter 175, Special Laws of 1872, passed February 27, 1872, provided that "All taxes hitherto assessed on real or personal property within the limits of Yellow Medicine county before the boundaries thereto were established by Chapter 98 of the General Laws of 1871 and now delinquent or which may hereafter become delinquent, shall be paid to the treasurer of that county." Redwood county refused to make this payment and suit was brought. The act was declared illegal, on the ground that the delinquent taxes were due to Redwood county because the expenses of the period for which the taxes were delinquent had been incurred in behalf of the part set off as Yellow Medicine as much as in behalf of the part which was retained in Redwood county. The delinquent taxes were subsequently collected by the officials of Yellow Medicine county and turned over to Redwood county.

McPhail county as approved by an act of the legislature March 1, 1866, took in a tract bounded on the north by the Minnesota river, on the west by the Dakota boundary, on the south by the present southern boundary of Lyon and Lincoln county, and on the east by the Range line between Ranges 39 and 40, from the Township line between Townships 108 and 109, north to the Minnesota river. This county was never organized and Redwood continued as before.

**Authority and References.** Session Laws and Revised Statutes, of the Territory and State of Minnesota, 1849-1915.

History of Renville County, Minnesota, by Franklin Curtiss-Wedge.

The Legislative Manual of Minnesota, 1915.

The *New Ulm Plaindealer*, November 17, 1871.

Court Records of Redwood County in the Custody of the Redwood County Clerk of Court.

History of Lyon County, Minnesota, by Arthur P. Rose.

## CHAPTER XVI.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THEIR MEETINGS.**

The affairs of Redwood county have been prudently administered, and the spirit of the commissioners, while ever mindful of the fact that the tendency of every agricultural community is in favor of the lowest tax rate, has nevertheless been one of progress and improvement.

The pioneer period from the organization of the county in 1865 to and including 1872, was one of organization, wherein the commissioners were confronted with the task of laying the foundation of the future business of the county. Everything was new and untried in a new country. Until late in 1867 there was no real estate to tax. Funds were scarce, the people were poor. For the first few years the expenses were much greater than the receipts.

During this period, the commissioners perfected the organization of the county, established the first townships, ordered the first roads and bridges, designated official printers, organized school districts, purchased supplies for the county officials, divided the county into commissioner districts, appointing various offices, attended to miscellaneous matters, and met the financial problems as best they could. At the beginning of this period Redwood county, for which the commissioners must administer, extended to the state line. Lyon, including Lincoln county, was cut off March 2, 1869, while Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine were cut off March 6, 1871.

The problem of the boundary line between Brown and Redwood counties came up during this period. February 23, 1865, the legislature had passed an act to change and define the boundaries of Redwood county. That act described the line between Brown and Redwood counties, as it is at present constituted, and the line was ratified by the voters. But the compilers of the Revised Statutes of 1866 ignored the act of 1865 and gave the boundaries as described by the previous act of 1862. This would include in Redwood county, Township 109, Ranges 34 and 35, now in Brown county. September 8, 1869, the commissioners notified the people of those two townships that under the Revised Statutes they were a part of Redwood county. Some money was expended by the county in those two townships, for which Brown county was afterward charged. It was finally decided that the two townships were not a part of Redwood county, the provisions of the revision not having been passed upon by the voters. A vote was taken, November 17, 1871, by the people of both counties on the question of whether

the two townships should be detached from Brown and placed in Redwood, and the proposition was defeated. The anxiety of the people of Redwood county to secure these two townships is explained by the fact that the region in dispute was then supposed to contain coal and iron.

For the most part this period was one of prosperity on the part of the people, though the hard winter and late spring of 1867 left many of the people destitute, and Governor Marshall was appealed to for seed and clothing. Secretary of State Hans Mattson and Major M. E. Powell, of Redwood Falls, made a personal canvass of the situation in this county. The commissioners met the problem, and pledged the faith of the county in return for necessary supplies.

**1865.** The first meeting of the board of county commissioners was held at the auditor's office at Redwood Falls, April 19. On motion of J. S. G. Honner, O. C. Martin was elected chairman. The bonds of Jacob Tippery as county treasurer, and of J. H. Thompson as sheriff, were accepted. The board then adjourned until 1 o'clock. In the afternoon E. E. Jeffries was appointed auditor pro tem in place of T. W. Caster, who was absent. The county was divided into three commissioner districts, No. 3 being created first, then No. 2 and then No. 1. An unnumbered school district was created. Colonel Sam McPhail was appointed county road supervisor and James W. Harkness was appointed assessor. The legislative grant for a state road from New Ulm, via Redwood Falls and Yellow Medicine to Whetstone river, was accepted. The license fee to sell liquor was placed at \$25. Col. McPhail was authorized to procure supplies for the use of the county officials. Those present at this meeting were O. C. Martin and J. S. G. Honner, supervisors; J. R. Thompson, sheriff; and E. E. Jeffries, auditor pro tem. September 5, the board met but at once adjourned. September 12, Edward March was appointed district school examiner for the county, O. C. Martin was authorized to secure a suitable room for the county offices, it was voted to levy a tax of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mills for school purposes, 6 mills for state purposes and 3 mills for county purposes. It was decided to borrow money from Colonel McPhail by issuing him county orders at 12 per cent discount. At this meeting Martin, Honner and Caster were present. At the meeting held October 14, Samuel M. Thompson, Charles Folsom and John McMillan, Sr., were appointed judges of the election to be held at the house of J. S. G. Honner in Redwood Falls. The whole county was constituted an election precinct. December 23 routine business was transacted. The county auditor's salary was fixed at \$50 a year.

**1866.** The first meeting of the board of county commissioners was held January 2, with O. C. Martin and Hugh Curry, commissioners, and Edward March, auditor, present. O. C. Martin

was appointed chairman. April 20, the commissioners made a report of the financial condition of the county. The receipts were shown to be \$110.76 of which \$75 had been received for three liquor licenses, and \$35.76 from the general tax fund of 1865. The expenses were \$333.44 and consisted entirely of bills for fees, salaries, and supplies. It was shown that county orders to the amount of \$106.75 had been taken in and cancelled. A bill for \$126.75 and outstanding orders of \$99.94 constituted the total indebtedness. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to school, road and license matters. School district No. 1, as organized, took in the territory surrounding Redwood Falls. District No. 2 lay to the eastward and took in the territory surrounding the Lower agency. The first road declared a public highway ran east from Redwood Falls on the township line to the ferry at the Lower agency, a branch of it extending northward to the Minnesota river along the east line of section 34, in what is now Honnor township. The sawmill road in Redwood Falls was declared a public highway, and a road was ordered laid out from the village, to intersect the old military road in the direction of the Yellow Medicine agency. September 4, John Winter, who lived near the place where military road crossed the Yellow Medicine, put in his appearance as a member of the county board, this being the first time that a third member had sat. Road Petition No. 1 was received, and the township of Yellow Medicine was created. September 5, road and school matters were considered, and Edward March was appointed county superintendent of public instruction. The following tax levy was made: state, 6 mills; county, 3 mills; school, 2 mills. School district No. 3 was organized. Liquor licenses were also granted. The county auditor and the county attorney were each voted an annual salary of \$100.

**1867.** The first meeting was held January 1, in the auditor's office with O. C. Martin, Hugh Curry, and Isaac Willey commissioners, and Edward March, auditor, present. O. C. Martin was elected chairman. It was decided to strike the name of John Winter from the minutes of September 4, 1866. Roads and bridge matters were considered and bills ordered paid. The first coroner's jury in the county, consisting of Dr. D. L. Hitchcock, C. P. Griswold, S. M. Thompson, J. W. Harkness, Hugh Curry, and Carl Holtz, were ordered paid for investigating the case of a man found dead on Rice creek. April 6, the financial report of the county was rendered. The receipts amounted to \$55.48. Of this, \$55 had been received for liquor licenses, and only forty-eight cents taxes had been paid. Taxes remaining unpaid amounted to \$135.74. The general tax fund amounted to \$63.857 and \$63.479 remained still unpaid. The entire special county tax of \$72.36 still remained unpaid. The total expenditures for the year were \$511.24. This left an indebtedness of \$455.76, which



added to \$222.68, the indebtedness of the previous year, made a total county indebtedness on March 12, 1867, of \$678.44, all in county orders most of which were held by Colonel McPhail. At the meeting of May 21, the commissioners decided to accept the offer of assistance from Governor William R. Marshall, and pledge the faith and credit of the county therefor. Col. Samuel McPhail was appointed distributing agent to issue seed and subsistence to the heads of families and other persons in need. September 24, the rates of taxation were levied as follows: state tax, 5 mills; county, 10 mills; school tax, 2 mills; special county tax, 3 mills. The special county tax was to be applied to purchasing supplies for the county offices. On the next day bounties were voted for the killing of blackbirds, striped and pocket gophers. The personal property of the county was equalized by adding \$25.00 to the tax statement of John Fuzzard. The sheriff was ordered to procure a suitable house for the use of the circuit court.

**1868.** The board of county commissioners met January 7, with B. H. Monroe and Hugh Curry, commissioners, and Edward March, auditor, present. B. H. Monroe was chosen chairman. Grand and Petit jurors were selected. The following salaries were voted: Auditor, \$200 (for year ending March 1, 1868, and the same for the year ending March 1, 1869); county superintendent of schools, \$25 (for the year ending January 7, 1868); county attorney, \$200 (for the year ending January 7, 1868). March 2, the commissioners changed the boundary line between Redwood Falls township and Yellow Medicine township. They appointed Charles P. Griswold sheriff. It was ordered that any person bringing suit before any justice in the county must first give security sufficient to cover the cost. William H. Morrill, treasurer of the county, was ordered to collect the delinquent taxes of 1866 and 1867. The financial report for the year ending March 10, 1868, showed the total receipts to be \$206.11; \$50 of this being from liquor licenses and \$156.11 from the county tax. The expenses for the year were \$532.05, leaving a deficit for the year of \$325.94. At that time the county had assets to the amount of \$215.55, consisting of \$33.59 due for delinquent taxes of 1866, and \$181.96 due for delinquent taxes for 1867. Outside of the indebtedness to the state the total liabilities were \$1,085.12. Of this \$100.75 was still owing for books, and \$984.37 was represented by outstanding county orders. There was also \$87.04 due the state on delinquent state taxes. School monies had been received and dispersed to the amount of \$234.64. This school fund represented sums received in 1867 and 1868 from state, county, and district taxes. On September 16, D. O. King put in his appearance as the third member of the board. The treasurer was again commanded to collect the delinquent taxes. The board

of equalization on September 16, fixed the value of farm lands in the county. A tax of 10 mills was levied on every dollar of taxable property in the county to pay up the county indebtedness. It was announced on December 28 that the abstract rolls of the county had been started by Sam McPhaill, who, for \$27.70 had copied from the land office records an abstract of all entered lands. School districts No. 4 and No. 5 were created.

**1869.** The board of county commissioners met January 5, Gorham Powers, D. O. King, B. H. Monroe, and O. C. Martin, commissioners, and Edward March, auditor, were present. D. O. King was chosen chairman. The salary of the county attorney and of the county auditor was raised to \$250 a year. On March 9, there was a dispute as to whether B. H. Monroe or Gorham Powers was legally a commissioner. Colonel Sam McPhail, county attorney, gave a written opinion from which the commissioners decided that Gorham Powers was not legally elected and therefore was not a member of this board of commissioners. School district No. 6 was created. A small part of school district No. 1 was transferred to school district No. 4. March 10, the liquor license fee was raised to \$50. It was decided that a small building should be erected on a lot purchased for that purpose, to be used by the county officers, the cost not to exceed \$300. The financial report for the year ending March 9, 1869, was given. The receipts for the year were \$669.92, of which \$574.43 was county tax, \$62.50 was from liquor licenses, \$19.74 was from fees on deeds. Total expenses for the year were \$957.43, including salaries and supplies. The liabilities were \$2,243.55, of which \$1,030.97 was outstanding orders, \$1,081.83 was due the state on the state tax for 1868, and a bill of \$132.75 for books was still unpaid. There were still \$2,187.25 of unpaid delinquent county taxes, and \$1,081.83 delinquent state taxes due, making a total of \$3,269.08 in assets. The school funds collected and distributed amounted to \$163.77. The county orders cancelled were \$748.40. On September 7, school districts No. 7 and No. 8 were created. There was a change made in the boundaries of school district No. 2. The township of Sherman was organized. A petition was presented for the change of the boundary line of commissioner district, but was rejected, because it was unauthorized by law. The commissioners sat as an equalization board, on September 8. September 9, the proceedings of the board of commissioners were ordered published in the Redwood Falls Mail, at the cost of \$5 per session. The people of two townships now in Brown county and directly east of the present township of Charlestown, were notified that they were a part of Redwood county. The rate of taxation was the same as the preceding year: state, 5 mills; county, 10 mills; school, 2 mills. The commissioners provided for the erection of the building for the county offices. On November

16 Gorham Powers appears as commissioner, his right to a seat in place of B. H. Monroe having been established. Road, school, and liquor license matters were taken up. E. A. Chandler was appointed to the office of superintendent of school to succeed Edward March, resigned.

**1870.** The county commissioners met January 4, with D. O. King, O. C. Martin and Gorham Powers, commissioners, present. D. O. King was chosen chairman. A clerk of court also appears for the first time. The present township of Sheridan was organized, at that time named Nolton. A change of a part of the road known as the county road to the Lower Sioux agency was favorably reported. Books and stationery for the county offices were provided. On January 6, E. A. Chandler was appointed county superintendent of schools for two years, and the salary was raised to \$50 per year. The building for the county offices was accepted, on January 8. On March 8, the school district No. 9 was created and Evind Knutson was transferred from district No. 7 to district No. 3. Several petitions were presented and granted for reduction of the assessed valuation of property, during the next two days. In the minutes of March 10, is found the first record of prosecution for selling liquors without a license. March 25, finds only D. O. King and O. C. Martin present. The financial report for the year ending March 25, 1870, was rendered. The total receipts were \$1,863.01, of which \$1,695.68 was from taxes and \$145.50 was from licenses. The total expenses were \$1,593.33 including salaries, fees and supplies. The liabilities amounted to \$1,177.85, consisting of outstanding orders. There were still \$5,062.91 due from delinquent tax and from other taxes \$325.74, making a total of \$5,388.65 in assets. Orders amounting to \$1,558.38 were cancelled. On May 25, three new school districts were organized. September 6 the commissioners sat as an equalization board. The first petition to build a bridge was granted, this being over Wabasha creek. The rate of county tax was raised to 10 mills.

**1871.** On January 3 the board of county commissioners met, O. C. Martin, Gorham Powers, and Jacob J. Light being present. O. C. Martin was chosen chairman. The county attorney's salary was fixed at \$300 per year. During the past year the first county map had been made. A committee of three were appointed to view the locality and measure the distance across the Redwood river with the view of building a bridge, for which the state had appropriated \$5,000. The township of Cerro Gordo was organized. This lay entirely outside the present boundaries of the county. Another township, lying outside the present county, and named Camp Release, was formed. On April 11, school districts 14, 15, 17 and 18 were organized the districts 7 and 8 organization being illegal. On May 18, two new townships were organ-

ized, both lying outside the present county. On May 18 the contract was let for the building of a bridge across the Redwood river at Redwood Falls and the Stage Road from Redwood Falls to New Ulm was to be repaired. A bill was presented for the building of a state road from Redwood Falls, west to the state line, but was rejected. A road from Redwood Falls to the Lyon county border was provided for. Two new school districts and a new township were created. On September 13, only two commissioners were present. They voted to levy an 8-mill county tax for the ensuing year. In the minutes of November 2, Dr. William D. Flinn is appointed as county physician, this being the first time that such an office is recorded. The bridge erected across the Redwood river was ordered protected with a sign to be placed at either end of it, warning people, driving over it, not to move faster than at a walk. School and road matters were considered. It was ordered on November 3 that all real estate records relating to real estate in Redwood county and found in the records of Brown county, should be copied.

1872. The county commissioners met January 2, with Jacob J. Light, Harvey Wingett, and David Tibbetts present. They chose Jacob J. Light chairman of the board. The boundaries for the commissioners' districts were changed. The salary of the county attorney was fixed at \$400 per year. On January 4, the salary of the county superintendent of schools was raised to \$100 per year and Dr. William H. Flinn appointed to that office. February 29 Peter Van Yandt is paid \$65 for keeping paupers, this being the first mention of paupers kept and provided for, in the county. On March 1, A. C. Randall collected a bill for medicine which he had supplied the poor. March 2, a pauper from Jackson county was ordered to leave Redwood county. The annual financial report for the year was rendered March 12. The total receipts were \$3,554.89, of which \$159.50 was from licenses and \$3,395.39 was from taxes collected. The total expenses were \$4,838.63. The liabilities were outstanding orders amounting to \$3,468.95, and the total assets amounted to \$12,117.93, of which \$850 was personal property and \$907.83 were Brown county bonds, with bills against Brown county amounting to \$314.10; the delinquent tax of \$9,968.16 including the interest made up the balance. At the meeting of March 23, H. Wingett was chosen chairman pro tem in the absence of Jacob J. Light. The site known as the Court House Square was given to the county by Colonel Sam McPhail. On March 30, the offer of Mr. Radcliff to draw up plans and specifications for the new court house was accepted. The first mention of a Redwood Falls banker, W. F. Dickinson, was made at this meeting, he being given the power to sell county bonds issued to build the court house. June 4, the plans for the new court house were received and approved.

School and road petitions were read. On June 14, it was ordered to obtain bids for a complete set of plats and field notes of Redwood county. The rate of county tax was to be 10 mills, and the special road and bridge tax of 1 mill was levied for the first time. Organizing townships and other matters were considered on September 4. Money for handcuffs and leg shackles was appropriated.

---

During the grasshopper period the board was beset with many problems. In addition to school, tax, road, financial, bridge, township, and other matters which had confronted the previous boards, the boards of this period erected a court house, attended to the matter of issuing railroad bonds, distributed seed wheat to sufferers from the grasshopper ravages, provided for the protection of the borders of the county against forest fires, and at the same time gradually improved the finances of the county.

**1873.** The board met January 7, Jacob J. Light, Harvey Wingett, and David Tibbetts, commissioners present. Harvey Wingett was chosen chairman. In the financial record of March 19, is found the first mention of naturalization papers filed. The total expenses for the year were \$4,386.58; total receipts were \$4,426.57, most of which was from general taxes; the total assets were \$12,064.62, most of which was in delinquent taxes, \$9,332.40, and personal property, \$1,050.00. On April 1, the board met and organized three school districts and one township. The returns of the election for the railroad bonds were received; total number of votes 243; in favor of the bonds, 235, opposed, —. The county paper was the Redwood Falls Gazette. It was decided that there was no safe place to keep the records of the county; so a court house was ordered built on the "court house square," the cost not to exceed \$2,200. The bid, amounting to \$2,150, for building the court house, was accepted. The funds, books and effects yet in the houses of V. C. Seward and belonging to the district court, were demanded returned to said office. On September 2, the board sat as an equalization board. They made the rate uniform throughout the county, the rate being, county, 10 mills, and road and bridges, 1 mill. Two new townships were organized and other necessary business was attended to. Road and school matters were considered at the meeting of September 16. Lewis M. Baker, having resigned his office as register of deeds, the board appointed G. W. Braley to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term, on October 6.

**1874.** On January 6, the county commissioners met with the following members present: David Tibbetts, Harvey Wingett, and W. H. Hawk. David Tibbetts was chosen chairman for the year. After the official bonds had been approved, a new county

school superintendent was appointed. The salary of the county attorney was lowered from \$400 to \$200. January 7, the license fee was lowered to \$35. The annual financial report was rendered March 12 as follows: total expenses, \$7,131.85; total receipts, \$6,235.84, consisting of taxes largely; total assets, \$17,303.78, mostly delinquent taxes. Township, road and bridge matters were considered. On March 21, it was voted to distribute seed wheat among the farmers who needed it. On July 28, four school districts were organized. In the records of September 30 a reward is offered to anyone who gives proof of any person who wantonly sets a prairie fire before May of the following year. Township and road matters were considered October 9.

**1875.** On January 5, the board met with A. M. Cook, William H. Hawk and D. Tibbetts, commissioners, present. A. M. Cook was chosen chairman. On January 28, in a special session, the board appointed A. M. Cook treasurer of the State Relief Fund, to distribute money to those who needed relief on account of the grasshoppers. On March 10, the resolution was adopted to cancel the \$1,192.40 in outstanding orders because they were supposed to have been paid. The following annual report was rendered: total expenses, \$7,991.06, besides \$383.30 spent for roads and bridges; total receipts, \$8,940.57, consisting in a large measure of taxes and interest; total assets, \$8,615.59, most of which was delinquent and uncollected taxes. July 26 the rate of county tax was fixed at 5 mills, and the road and bridge tax at 1 mill. The county was divided into five commissioner's districts.

**1876.** On January 4, the board, now consisting of five members, met with D. O. King, Charles Porter, L. Bedall, J. M. Little, and Mathias Keller, present. The first named commissioner was elected chairman. The salary of the county attorney was fixed at \$350 per year. D. O. King and J. M. Little were appointed a committee on court house and court house grounds. D. L. Bigham was elected county superintendent of schools, on February 1. On March 16 the bond of the bank of Redwood Falls, as depository of the county funds, was approved. The board rendered their financial report showing the total expenditures to be \$6,799.24, including the road and bridge expenses of \$227.63; total receipts, \$6,908.38, most of which was from taxes collected; total liabilities, \$2,326.04, mostly outstanding orders; total assets, \$7,692.15, most of which was delinquent taxes and uncollected taxes of 1875. This report shows the county funds in the best condition thus far reported, but at the next meeting an expert was hired to examine and balance the county funds. On June 19 the time was spent in organizing four school districts and one township. July 24 the commissioners acted as an equalizing board. It was voted that \$7,000 be raised as taxes to defray the county expenses, and that \$1,000 be raised by the road and bridge



tax. On September 6, the board decided not to issue the railroad bonds until the railroad was completed to Redwood Falls. Strips of grass were ordered burned along the south and west borders of the county to prevent forest fires from coming in. On September 20, a petition was read before the board that the bonds for the railroad to Redwood Falls be issued immediately. D. O. King, Mathias Keller and J. M. Little were appointed to act as a committee to confer with the railroad company with the view of making a compact with them.

**1877.** On January 2, the board of county commissioners met, with D. O. King, J. M. Little, Charles Porter, and Frank Schandera present. Mathias Keller appears on February 15 as the fifth commissioner. The bonds for the new railroad to connect with Winona were ordered issued immediately. The road was to be completed by October 1, 1877. On February 26 the board distributed some of the money which the state had previously appropriated for buying seed grain for the sufferers from the grasshoppers' ravages. On March 20, the treasurer rendered his annual report as follows: total receipts, \$8,532.57; total expenses, \$6,545.75; total assets, \$16,754.62; total liabilities, \$959.27, in outstanding orders. On March 21, strips were ordered plowed around the county at the boundary lines to act as guards against prairie fires. On June 18, the board voted to pay the state what was due it, as delinquent state tax. On July 23, they sat as an equalizing board. The amount of \$5,000 was to be raised for county expenses; \$975 was to be raised for roads and bridges. On October 12, J. M. Little was chosen chairman to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of D. O. King.

---

The period of rapid growth began with the close of the grasshopper years and extended to 1905. The routine business of the county gradually increased in volume and entailed an additional amount of attention on the part of the commissioners. During this period all the remaining townships were organized, many new school districts were created, roads gradually networked the county. A poor farm was bought and sold. A new court house was erected. To the three villages which were incorporated by the legislature, Redwood Falls, Walnut Grove and Lamberton, the county commissioners during this period added thirteen more. In the following resume, the names of the commissioners, notes regarding salaries, and a few other important matters are given, the other subjects being treated adequately elsewhere. In 1904 the first attempt was made to establish a county ditch.

**1878.** The board of county commissioners met January 1. Fred V. Hotchkiss, Frank R. Schandera, Mathias Keller, Charles



Porter, and O. B. Turrell, commissioners were present. Fred V. Hotchkiss was chosen chairman. On January 2, the salary of the county attorney was lowered to \$300. In the minutes of January 3, is the first record of a town voting on the liquor license question. On March 5, applications for seed grain were considered and most of them allowed. On March 20, the salary of the county superintendent of schools was fixed at \$10<sup>00</sup> for every school, there being at this time thirty-five schools in the county. On July 15, 1878, the commissioners acted as an equalization board.

**1879.** January 7, the county board met, with Fred V. Hotchkiss, Charles Porter, O. B. Turrell, Frank R. Schandera, and Archibald Stewart, commissioners, present. The first named man was chosen chairman. On January 8, a petition was ordered sent to the state to provide for two terms of district court in Redwood county. The liquor license fee was raised to \$100 per year. In the minutes of the meeting of January 9, the first record is found of a county officer being asked to resign. At the same meeting the town officers for Johnsonville township were appointed, the people of that township having failed to elect. The Redwood Gazette and the Lamberton Commercial were designated as the county papers.

**1880.** The first meeting came on January 6. Fred V. Hotchkiss, Charles Porter, O. B. Turrell, Archibald Stewart and W. H. Owen, commissioners, were present. Fred Hotchkiss was re-elected chairman. The salary of the county attorney was raised to \$400; that of the county auditor was raised to \$1,200. On January 9, the board decided not to grant any liquor licenses for that year. The board on the following day organized the territory not already made into townships, as road and assessment districts. They appointed an assessor and road supervisor in each of the six districts.

**1881.** The first meeting of the board was held on January 4. Fred V. Hotchkiss, Charles Bennett, W. H. Owen, Archibald Stewart and O. B. Turrell, commissioners, were present. On January 5, the salary of the judge of probate was fixed at \$300 per year.

**1882.** The first meeting of the board was held January 3, O. B. Turrell, W. H. Owen, James Anderson, Alfred Clark and George W. Skelton being present. The salary of the county attorney was raised to \$450. Much time was taken in changing school district boundaries.

**1883.** The first meeting of the board was held January 2, James Anderson, Alfred Clark, Eli Webb, James Longbottom and L. B. Newton were present.

**1884.** The board met on January 1, with James Longbottom, James Anderson, James S. Johnson, Eli Webb, and Alfred Clark,

commissioners, present. The liquor license fee was raised to \$100. The salary of the county attorney was made \$400, on January 2. A committee was appointed to purchase a poor farm for Redwood county in Sherman township. On July 31, the Iowa and Minnesota Railroad Company applied for help in building a railroad through Redwood Falls southward to the state line. Nothing was done in this regard.

**1885.** The first meeting of the board was held January 6, with James Anderson, chairman, Eli Webb, James S. Johnson, Joseph Tyson and William Lauer, commissioners, present. The liquor license fee was lowered again to \$50 per year.

**1886.** The first meeting of the board occurred on January 5, with Joseph Tyson, chairman, William Lauer, Eli Webb, James S. Johnson, and James Anderson, present. The "Redwood Gazette" and the "Redwood Reveille" were chosen to do the county printing. James Aiken and W. M. Todd were the respective publishers. The salary of the county treasurer was fixed at \$1,200 a year.

**1887.** The first meeting of the board was held January 4, with W. E. Baker, chairman, Michael Donner, H. H. Leavitt, D. W. Whittet, and James Sommer, present. The liquor license fee was raised to \$100 per year. The salary of the county attorney was raised to \$600 per year.

**1888.** The board met January 4. The commissioners were all present—W. E. Baker, James Sommer, H. H. Leavitt, Michael Donner, and David W. Whittet. The Redwood Gazette was chosen as the official paper for the county.

**1889.** The board met January 1. The following commissioners were present: W. E. Baker, chairman, Michael Donner, H. H. Leavitt, James S. Johnson, and David W. Whittet. The village of Morgan was incorporated.

**1890.** The board met on January 6, with the same commissioners as at previous year. Five thousand dollars were appropriated for the enlarging of the court house.

**1891.** The board met January 6. James S. Johnson, David W. Whittet, H. H. Leavitt, Frank Schandera, and F. W. Philbrick, commissioners, were present. David W. Whittet was chosen chairman. The salary of the county attorney was raised to \$800. The resolution was adopted on February 26 that the court house was not sufficient for the needs of the county and a new one should be built, the cost not to exceed \$15,000.

**1892.** The first meeting of the board was held January 5, with David W. Whittet, chairman, F. W. Philbrick, James S. Johnson, Frank Schandera and H. H. Leavitt, present. The Redwood Reveille and the Lamberton Leader were selected to publish the county proceedings. The village of Belview was incorporated during this year.

**1893.** The board met January 3. F. W. Philbrick, James Arnold, Frank Schandera, Frank Billington, and E. A. Pease, commissioners, were present. F. W. Philbrick was duly elected chairman. The Redwood Reveille was designated as the official paper for the county. The salary of the county superintendent of schools was fixed at \$900, it having been \$10 for every school before this time.

**1894.** The first meeting of the board was held January 5. The members, F. W. Philbrick, chairman, Frank Billington, Frank Schandera, E. A. Pease, and James Arnold, were all present. The Redwood Gazette was chosen as the official paper for the county.

**1895.** The board met January 8, with the following commissioners present: J. P. Cooper, Leo Altermatt, James Arnold, Frank Billington, and E. A. Pease. James Arnold was duly elected chairman. The Redwood Reveille was chosen the official paper for the county. The sheriff resigned April 6, and it took balloting for five days to choose another. The county jail was completed during this year. E. A. Pease resigned April 6, 1895, and Christian Olson was appointed.

**1896.** The first meeting of the board was held January 7. J. P. Cooper, chairman, James Arnold, Leo Altermatt, Frank Billington, Christian Olson, Commissioners, were present. The Redwood Gazette was chosen the official paper for the county for the ensuing year.

**1897.** The board met January 5. The members present were J. P. Cooper, chairman, Leo Altermatt, John W. Carlile, Thomas J. Sloan, and Eric Wilson. The Redwood Reveille was chosen as the official paper for the county for the ensuing year.

**1898.** The first meeting of the board was held January 4. J. P. Cooper, chairman, Leo Altermatt, Eric Wilson, Thomas J. Sloan and John W. Carlile, commissioners, were present. The salary of the county superintendent of schools and of the county attorney was each raised to \$1,000 per year.

**1899.** The first meeting of the board occurred on January 3. J. P. Cooper, chairman, Leo Altermatt, Eric Wilson, Thomas J. Sloan, and J. W. Carlile, commissioners, were present. On January 5 the board decided to sell the poor farm. The Redwood Gazette was made the official county paper. On April 18, a committee was appointed to see that the soldiers who had served in the Indian, Mexican, or Civil Wars, were honorably buried when they died. On July 18 the first typewriter was purchased for the use of the county officers in the court house.

**1900.** The board met January 21 with the same chairman and the same commissioners present as last year. Vesta and Revere were incorporated as villages. The villages of Wanda and Seaforth were organized on December 18.

**1901.** January 3, the commissioners met, with J. P. Cooper, chairman, Leo Altermatt, J. W. Carlile, John F. Cain, and D. R. McCorquodale, present. The salary of the county superintendent of schools was raised to \$1,100. In the minutes of the meeting of July 8, 1901, is mentioned the ordering of five telephones for the court house to be used in the county offices.

**1902.** The board met on January 7, the same chairman and members as last year being present. The salary of the county superintendent of schools was raised to \$1,260. On July 25, a sum of money was allowed to control infectious and contagious diseases in Redwood county. The villages of Delhi and Lucan were incorporated.

**1903.** The board met January 6. C. W. Mead, John F. Cain, George Posz, J. W. Carlile, and D. R. McCorquodale, commissioners, were present. The county superintendent of schools' salary was raised to \$1,500 per year. The liquor license fee was fixed at \$500 on April 14. The villages of Clements and North Redwood were incorporated during the year.

**1904.** The board met on January 4, with the same officers as in 1903. A public ditch was ordered surveyed in Willow Lake township on July 11. This is the first mention of a public ditch in Redwood county.

**1905.** The board met January 3. C. W. Mead, chairman, George Posz, D. R. McCorquodale, C. H. Fredericksen and John F. Cain, commissioners, were present. The first two county ditches were ordered built during this year, but actual work was not started until 1906.

The beginning of the modern period is marked by the year 1906, the year in which actual work was started on the first county ditch. The ditching has continued rapidly, state roads have been built, the new jail constructed, a county poor farm has been purchased, a county superintendent of roads and a county agent appointed, and many distinct advances made in school matters.

**1906.** The board met January 2, with the same chairman and members as last year. On January 2, the resolution was adopted to have each commissioner appoint a county physician in his district. The first state road was ordered built in Redwood county. This is the first time such a thing is mentioned in the record. The majority of the time was spent in granting petitions for county ditches.

**1907.** The first meeting of the board was held on January 8. George Posz, chairman, D. R. McCorquodale, John F. Cain, C. H. Fredericksen, and H. M. Aune, commissioners, were present. The salary of the county superintendent of schools was raised to \$1,300 per year. A board of health for Redwood county was appointed, consisting of three members. On July 12, 1907, the board voted

to buy the land in the W.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  rods of lot 10 and all of lot 11, section 36, town 113, range 36, containing  $25\frac{3}{4}$  acres. This is the present "poor farm" property. A county road superintendent was appointed for Redwood county on July 8.

**1908.** The board met January 7, the same chairman and commissioners being present as in 1907. The salary of the county attorney was raised to \$1,100 per year; that of the county superintendent of schools to \$1,500 per year. A children's agricultural contest was to be held in the county during this year under the supervision of the county superintendent of schools.

**1909.** The board met on January 5. D. R. McCorquodale, chairman, H. M. Aune, Eric Wilson, George Posz, and C. H. Fredericksen, commissioners, were present. A school children's industrial contest was arranged for to be held in Redwood county under the supervision of the county superintendent of schools. The salary of the sheriff was fixed at \$1,200 per year. On September 29, the home for the county poor was completed.

**1910.** The board met January 4, with the same commissioners present as last year. The salary of the county superintendent of schools was raised to \$1,600 per year. On July 11, 1910, a sum of \$300 was appropriated for the county exhibit at the state fair. Most of the time was occupied with ditch matters.

**1911.** The board met January 3. D. R. McCorquodale, chairman, H. M. Aune, John Arends, Eric Wilson, and C. H. Fredericksen, commissioners, were present. The salary of the county superintendent of schools was raised to \$1,700 per year. Many ditches were completed and approved during 1911.

**1912.** The board met January 2 with the same chairman and commissioners as last year. The salary of the county superintendent of schools was raised to \$1,800 per year. Ditch matters filled the remaining meetings.

**1913.** The board met January 7. C. H. Fredericksen, chairman, H. M. Aune, Eric Wilson, John Arends, and James P. Gaffney, commissioners, were present. The "Redwood Falls Sun" was chosen as the official paper for the county for the ensuing year. The contract for the present concrete bridge over the Redwood river, at Redwood Falls, was let April 2. In the minutes of the meeting of October 3, a sum of money is appropriated for hiring a county agent.

**1914.** The board met January 6, with the same chairman and commissioners as the previous year. The "Morgan Messenger" was designated the official paper for the county for the ensuing year. State roads and ditch matters filled the remaining sessions.

**1915-16.** The commissioners for these two years were: 1, George Schmiesing; 2, John Arends; 3, Ed. Stefel; 4, H. M. Aune (chairman); 5, James P. Gaffney. Eric Wilson, from the first

district served a few months, but died in 1915, and George Schmiesing was appointed in his place.

**Districts.** For the election to be held in the fall of 1865, the whole county of Redwood was constituted an election precinct. The county then extended westward and northwestward to the state line.

Commissioners' districts were designated on April 19, 1865, as follows: 1—Bounded on the northeast by the Minnesota river, on the west by the state line, on the south by the township line between townships 112 and 113, on the east by the range line between ranges 35 and 36. It consisted of the present townships of Swedes Forest, Kintire and Delhi, and a vast tract to the west and northwest. 2—Townships 111, 112, ranges 34 and townships 110, 111 and 112, range 35. It consisted of the present townships of Paxton, Sherman, Three Lakes, Morgan, and Sundown. 3—Bounded on the north by the township line between townships 112 and 113, on the west by the state line, on the south by the township line between townships 108 and 109, and on the east by the range line between ranges 35 and 36. It consisted of the present townships of Redwood Falls, New Avon, Willow Lake, Charlestown, Sheridan, Vail, Waterbury, Lamberton, Vesta, Granite Rock, Johnsonville, North Hero, Underwood, Westline, Gales and Springdale, and westward to the state line. It will be seen that the present townships of Honner and Brookville were omitted from this description.

Sept. 7, 1869, a petition was presented for a change in the boundaries of the commissioner districts, but it was rejected by the board because unauthorized by law.

Another division was made Jan. 2, 1872. 1—Included all the land in Redwood county, west of the range line between ranges 36 and 37. This consisted of the present townships of Swedes Forest, Kintire, Sheridan, Vail, Waterbury, Lamberton, Vesta, Granite Rock, Johnsonville, North Hero, Underwood, Westline, Gales, and Springdale. It is not definitely stated where the western boundary of Redwood county was. 2—Included all the land in Redwood county to-wit: commencing at the intersection of the range line between ranges 34 and 35, with the Minnesota river, thence west between the towns 112 and 113 to the range line between 35 and 36, thence south to the south line of the county, thence east to the east line of the county, thence north to the Minnesota river, thence northwesterly along the river to the place of beginning. This consists of the present townships of Sherman, Morgan, Brookville, Paxton, Three Lakes and Sundown. Just where the southern boundary of the county was, was not stated. 3—Included all the territory of Redwood county not included in districts 1 and 2.

The board being increased to five members, the division of

July 26, 1875, was made as follows: 1—All the land south of the north line of town 110 and west of the west line of range 36. 2—All the land south of the north line of town 110 and east of the west line of range 36. 3—All the land in town 111, range 34, 35 and 36, and all that part of town 112, range 34, lying in Redwood county, and all of town 112, range 35. 4—All the land of town 112, range 36, and all that part of town 113, ranges 35 and 36, lying in Redwood county. 5—All the land not in the other four districts of Redwood county.

On July 26, 1880, Redwood county was redistricted into five commissioners' districts as follows: 1—All the towns of North Hero, Springdale, Gales, Johnsonville, Westline, and town 111, range 38. 2—All the towns of Vail, New Avon, Willow Lake, Waterbury, Lamberton and Charlestown. 3—All the towns of Sundown, Brookville, Morgan, Three Lakes, Paxton and Sherman. 4—All the towns of Redwood Falls, Sheridan, Vesta, and Underwood. 5—All the towns of Kintire, Swedes Forest, Delhi, Honner, and all of town 113, range 34, in Redwood county.

On Jan. 5, 1886, the county was again re-districted as to county commissioners' districts. 1—All the land in the townships of Springdale, North Hero, Gales, Johnsonville, Westline, Underwood, Vesta, the unorganized town 111, range 38, and the village of Walnut Grove. 2—All the land in the township of Lamberton, Charlestown, Waterbury, Willow Lake, Vail, New Avon, and the village of Lamberton. 3—All the land in the townships of Sundown, Brookville, Three Lakes, Morgan, Paxton, and Sherman. 4—All the land in the village of Redwood Falls. 5—All the land in the townships of Sheridan, Redwood Falls, Kintire, Delhi, Swedes Forest, and Honner.

**Authority.** Records of the doings of the county commissioners of Redwood county, transcribed by the various county auditors and on file at the court house in the custody of the Redwood county auditors.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### COUNTY OFFICERS AND BUILDINGS.

Redwood county has been fortunate in the type of men that have administered its affairs in public office. With a few exceptions they have been men of integrity and ability, and the splendid condition of the records are a glowing tribute to the fidelity with which they have labored. It is fitting that their names should here be preserved for the perusal of future generations.

Auditor. April 19, 1865-March 1, 1866, T. W. Caster; March



1, 1866-March 1, 1871, Edward March; March 1, 1871-March 1, 1872, D. O. King; March 1, 1872-March 16, 1876, E. A. Chandler; March 16, 1876-Jan. 4, 1887, Isaac M. Van Schaack; Jan. 4, 1887-Jan. 6, 1891; Tillson Tibbetts; Jan. 6, 1891-Jan. 3, 1899, Andrew H. Andersen; Jan. 3, 1899-Jan. 8, 1907, Isaac N. Tompkins; Jan. 8, 1907 to the present time, Lars P. Larson.

Register of Deeds. April 19, 1865-Jan. 1, 1866, J. S. G. Honner; Jan. 1, 1866-Oct. 6, 1873 (resigned), Lewis M. Baker; Oct. 6, 1873-Jan. 4, 1876, George W. Braley; Jan. 4, 1876-Jan. 2, 1878, Tillson Tibbetts; Jan. 2, 1878-Jan. 3, 1882, James B. Robinson; Jan. 3, 1882-Jan. 5, 1897, George L. Evans; Jan. 5, 1897-Jan. 6, 1903, Norris W. Cobleigh; Jan. 6, 1903-Jan. 5, 1909, Otto C. Goetze; Jan. 5, 1909, to the present time, A. D. McRae.

County Surveyor. July 1, 1866-Sept. 4, 1867, T. W. Caster; Sept. 4, 1867-Jan. 4, 1872, George E. Oles; Jan. 4, 1872-Jan. 6, 1874, I. S. Kaufman; Jan. 6, 1874-Jan. 6, 1876, David Watson; Jan. 6, 1876-Jan. 2, 1878, D. L. Bigham; Jan. 2, 1878-Jan. 6, 1880, Tillson Tibbetts; Jan. 6, 1880-Jan., 1882, Samuel O. Masters; Jan., 1882-Jan. 4, 1887, Tillson Tibbetts; Jan. 4, 1887-Jan. 3, 1893, Charles V. Everett; Jan. 3, 1893-Jan. 8, 1907, D. L. Bigham; Jan. 8, 1907-Jan. 7, 1911, Louis J. Beevar; Jan. 7, 1911, to the present time, D. L. Bigham.

Judge of Probate. April 19, 1865-Jan. 3, 1869, Sam McPhail; Jan. 3, 1869-Jan. 3, 1871, Coulter Wiggins; Jan. 3, 1871-Feb. 2, 1872 (resigned), Victor C. Seward; Feb. 2, 1872-Jan., 1877, Hial D. Baldwin; Jan., 1877-Jan. 7, 1879, S. J. F. Ruter; Jan. 7, 1879-Jan. 6, 1885, John H. Bowers; Jan. 6, 1885-Jan. 7, 1889, Hial D. Baldwin; Jan. 7, 1889-Jan. 8, 1895, Erastus D. French; Jan. 8, 1895-Jan. 6, 1901, James B. Robinson; Jan. 6, 1901-Nov. 30, 1909 (deceased), Geo. L. Evans; Nov. 30, 1909-Jan. 3, 1911, Charles T. Howard; Jan. 3, 1911, to the present time, A. R. A. Laudon.

Clerk of Court. Jan. 1, 1866-Jan. 4, 1870, Birney Flynn; Jan. 4, 1870-Jan., 1872, Julius R. White; Jan., 1872-Nov., 1872, Victor C. Seward; Nov., 1872-Jan. 2, 1877, Hial D. Baldwin; Jan. 2, 1877-May 11, 1880, W. H. Hawk; May 11, 1880-Jan. 4, 1881, J. Wilson Paxton; Jan. 4, 1881-Jan. 7, 1889, Franklin Ensign; Jan. 7, 1889-Jan. 5, 1897, James L. Byram; Jan. 5, 1897-Jan. 5, 1909, Fred L. Warner; Jan. 5, 1909, to the present time, W. D. Weldon.

Coroner. Jan. 4, 1870-Jan. 4, 1872, Peter Swenson; Jan. 4, 1872-Jan. 2, 1878, Dr. D. L. Hitchcock; Jan. 2, 1878-Jan. 6, 1880, R. W. Hoyt; Jan. 6, 1880-July 25, 1881, L. S. Crandall; July 25, 1881-Jan. 1, 1883, C. S. Stoddard; Jan. 1, 1883-Jan. 6, 1885, Amos G. Hammer; Jan. 6, 1885-May 27, 1887, Frederick H. Morton; May 27, 1887-Jan. 1, 1893, Giles R. Pease; Jan. 1, 1893-Jan. 5, 1895, L. S. Crandall; Jan. 5, 1895-Jan. 4, 1899, C. P. Gibson; Jan. 4, 1899-Oct. 23, 1901 (resigned), A. B. Hawes; Oct. 23, 1901-Sept. 21, 1903, H. Percy Dredge; Sept. 21, 1903-Feb. 24, 1904 (moved

away), W. E. Belt; Feb. 24, 1904-Jan. 3, 1905, F. J. Bickford; Jan. 3, 1905-March 12, 1914, Frederick H. Aldrich; March 12, 1914, to the present time, F. W. Brey.

**Sheriff.** April 19, 1865-Jan., 1866, John Ripley Thompson; Jan., 1866-Jan., 1868, Norman Webster; Jan., 1868-March 2, 1868, John Ripley Thompson; March 2, 1868-Jan. 3, 1871, Charles P. Griswold (appointed); Jan. 3, 1871-Jan. 3, 1876, Thos. McMillan; Jan. 3, 1876-Jan. 2, 1878, James Durtal; Jan. 2, 1878-Jan. 8, 1880, David B. Whitmore; Jan. 8, 1880-Jan. 3, 1882, A. L. Gale; Jan. 3, 1882-Jan. 4, 1887, Melville B. Abbott; Jan. 4, 1887-Jan. 3, 1893, Charles W. Mead; Jan. 3, 1893-April 6, 1895, Casper Blethen (resigned); April 9, 1895-Jan. 5, 1897, Charles W. Mead (appointed); Jan. 5, 1897-Jan. 8, 1901, E. A. Pease; Jan. 8, 1901-Jan. 6, 1903, Alvin Small; Jan. 6, 1903-Jan. 7, 1913, B. C. Schueller; Jan. 7, 1913, to the present time, Frank J. Hassenstab.

**Treasurer.** April 19, 1865-March 2, 1868, Jacob Tippiery; March 2, 1868-May 25, 1870, William H. Morrill (resigned); May 25, 1870-March, 1875, L. F. Robinson; March, 1875-March, 1876, George W. Braley; March, 1876-March, 1880, Amasa Tower; March, 1880-Jan. 4, 1887, Alpheus A. Wilson; Jan. 4, 1887-June 26, 1888, John S. G. Honner (deceased); June 26, 1888-Jan. 8, 1895, Emil Kuenzli; Jan. 8, 1895-Jan. 3, 1899, Joseph R. Lankard; Jan. 3, 1899-Jan. 6, 1903, William P. Tenney; Jan. 6, 1903-Jan. 5, 1909, J. Albert Johnson; Jan. 5, 1909-Aug. 18, 1911, N. V. R. Hunter (deceased); Sept. 1, 1911, to the present time, Charles V. Everett.

**Attorney.** Jan. 1, 1866-Jan. 1, 1871, Samuel McPhail; Jan. 3, 1871-Jan. 2, 1872, Coulter Wiggins; Jan. 2, 1872-Jan. 6, 1880, M. E. Powell; Jan. 6, 1880-Jan. 3, 1882, Alfred Wallin; Jan. 3, 1882-Jan. 4, 1887, M. E. Powell; Jan. 4, 1887-Jan. 31, 1894, Michael M. Madigan (resigned); Jan. 31, 1894-Feb. 27, 1894, S. L. Pierce (resigned); Feb. 27, 1894-Jan. 8, 1895, W. L. Pierce; Jan. 8, 1895-Jan. 6, 1903, Frank Clague; Jan. 6, 1903-Jan. 8, 1907, Charles T. Howard; Jan. 8, 1907-April 13, 1910, William G. Owens (resigned); April 13, 1910, to the present time, Albert H. Enerson.

**Buildings.** The county buildings of Redwood county consist of a commodious court house and sightly jail, at Redwood Falls, and an unusually beautiful alms house, one mile west from the city.

Redwood Falls has been the county seat of Redwood county since the organization of the county. The first county officers kept their books at their homes or at their regular places of business. Later some of them secured small offices. The early courts were held in various buildings.

The first action by the county board toward securing quarters for county offices was taken Sept. 12, 1865, when O. C. Martin was authorized to secure a suitable room for the transaction of

county business. Mr. Martin's office was used for the purpose for several years.

On March 10, 1869, the board of commissioners decided to purchase a lot and erect a county building at a cost not to exceed \$300, but a short time afterward Dr. D. L. Hitchcock and C. P. Griswold offered to erect a suitable building and to rent it to the county for \$5 a month. This offer was accepted, and the officers moved into the building early in January, 1870.

The present court house square was donated to the county by Col. Sam. McPhail, and in 1872 plans were set on foot for the erection of a court house thereon. May 5, 1873, the commissioners appointed a committee to take charge of the erection of the building. The contract was let May 31, 1873, at \$2,150. Of this, \$1,400 was to be raised by issuing county orders from time to time at 7 per cent interest. The building was subsequently enlarged and improved in various ways. Sept. 2, 1890, the sum of \$5,000 was appropriated for the purpose of further enlarging the building, but the action was reconsidered in favor of an entirely new structure.

Action toward erecting the present court house on the site of the older one was taken July 13, 1891, when the county commissioners voted \$15,000 for the purpose. The scope of the work grew, and the court house as it stands costs between \$35,000 and \$40,000. The building is splendidly adapted for the purpose, and is fully equipped with electric lights, telephones, water and sewer connections, and substantial vaults. The court room on the upper floor seats from 800 to 1,000 people, and is a model of its kind in every respect.

A resolution to erect a county jail, a few rods northeast of the court house was passed by the commissioners, May 2, 1894. The bid was approved June 6, 1894, and the building, together with the heating plant in the court house and jail, was approved Feb. 21, 1895. The court house and jail are both of brick, and with their well-kept lawns, are ornaments of which the people have reason to be proud.

Jan. 5, 1899, it was decided to sell the county poor farm, the farm being too far from the county seat. Later the present farm west of the city was purchased. The splendid structure which adorns the farm, and which is probably the most magnificent alms house in Minnesota, was completed Sept. 22, 1909.

**Authority.** These lists of officers have been gleaned with some difficulty from the various records at the Redwood County Court House and from the files of the newspapers, as well as from election returns. The records in the individual offices were consulted for signatures, the official bonds of the officers were examined, and election returns looked over with care.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

**LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION.**

Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, then only thirty-four years of age, was appointed by President Taylor the first governor of the new territory of Minnesota. His previous public experience had been as a member of the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth congresses, in which he had displayed the sterling qualities and the marked ability which characterized his long after-career. From the time of his coming to Minnesota until the close of his life he remained one of its most loyal and honored citizens, filling many important positions both in the state and the nation. He arrived in St. Paul, May 27, 1849, and the hotels being full to overflowing proceeded with his family to Mendota, a fur trading station at the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, where he became the guest of Henry H. Sibley, remaining there until June 26.

On the first of June he issued a proclamation, said to have been prepared in a small room in Bass's log tavern which stood on the site now occupied by the Merchant's Hotel, making official announcement of the organization of the territory, with the following officers: Governor, Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania; secretary, C. K. Smith, of Ohio; chief justice, Aaron Goodrich, of Tennessee; associate justices, David Cooper, of Pennsylvania, and Bradley B. Meeker, of Kentucky; United States marshal, Joshua L. Taylor; United States attorney, H. L. Moss. Mr. Taylor, having declined to accept the office of marshal, A. M. Mitchell, of Ohio, a graduate of West Point, and colonel of an Ohio regiment in the Mexican war, was appointed to the position and arrived in August.

A second proclamation issued by Governor Ramsey, June 11, divided the territory into three judicial districts, to which the three judges who had been appointed by the president were assigned. The present Redwood county was included in the Third district, which embraced all the southern part of the state, the northern boundary of the district being the Mississippi from the Iowa line to the mouth of the Minnesota, the whole length of the Minnesota, and a line drawn from the source of the Minnesota west to the Missouri. Hon. David Cooper, associate justice, was assigned to the bench and court ordered held at Mendota, on the fourth Monday of August, 1849.

The census of the territory taken in 1849 by an order of Governor Ramsey issued June 11, although including the soldiers at the fort and pretty much every living soul in the territory except Indians, footed up the disappointing total of 4,764—of

which number 3,058 were males and 1,706 were females. Additional and revised returns made the population exactly 5,000—males, 3,253; females, 1,747.

Another proclamation issued July 7, 1849, divided the territory into seven council districts and ordered an election to be held August 1 to choose one delegate to the house of representatives at Washington, and nine councillors and eighteen representatives to constitute the legislative assembly of Minnesota. The election passed off very quietly, politics entering scarcely at all into the contests, which were wholly personal. In all 682 votes were cast for the delegate to congress, Henry H. Sibley, who was elected without opposition.

The council districts were described in Ramsey's proclamation as follows: "No. 1. The St. Croix precinct of St. Croix county, and the settlements on the west bank of the Mississippi south of Crow village to the Iowa line. 2. The Stillwater precinct of the county of St. Croix. 3. The St. Paul precinct (except Little Canada settlement). 4. Marine Mills, Falls of St. Croix, Rush Lake, Rice River and Snake River precincts, of St. Croix county and La Pointe county. 5. The Falls of St. Anthony precinct and the Little Canada settlement. 6. The Sauk Rapids and Crow Wing precincts, of St. Croix county, and all settlements west of the Mississippi and north of the Osakis river, and a line thence west to the British line. 7. The country and settlements west of the Mississippi, not included in districts 1 and 6. The territory now embraced in Redwood county was included in the Seventh district, which generally speaking included all the territory south of the Sauk and west of the Mississippi to the territorial line, but none of the settlements on the west bank of the Mississippi except such as might be found north of the settlements near St. Anthony Falls and south of the mouth of Sauk river.

1849—The first territorial legislature—called the territorial assembly—met Monday, September 3, in the Central House, St. Paul, a large log building weatherboarded, which served both as a state house and a hotel. It stood on practically the present site of the Mannheimer block. On the first floor of the main building was the secretary's office and the dining room was occupied as the Representatives' chamber. As the hour for dinner or supper approached the House had to adjourn to give the servants an opportunity to make the necessary preparations for serving the meal. In the ladies' parlor on the second floor the Council convened for their deliberations. The legislature halls were not to exceed eighteen feet square. Governor Ramsey, during his entire term of office, had his executive office in his private residence, and the supreme court shifted from place to place as rooms could be rented for its use. Although congress had appropriated \$20,000

for the erection of a capitol, the money could not be used as "a permanent seat of government" for the territory had not yet been selected, so the machinery of government had to be carted around in the most undignified manner. The seventh district was represented in the council by Martin McLeod, of Lac qui Parle; and in the house by Alexis Bailly, of Mendota, and Gideon H. Pond, of Oak Grove.

1851—The second territorial legislature met January 1 and adjourned March 31. Martin McLeod again represented the Seventh district in the council; while in the house were Alexander Faribault, of Mendota, and B. H. Randall, of Fort Snelling.

The territory, having been divided into counties, it was apportioned by the second territorial legislature (1851) into seven districts. Dakota county, which included the present Redwood county, was the Sixth district.

1852—The third territorial legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 6. The Sixth district was represented in the council by Martin McLeod, of Oak Grove; and in the house by James McBoal, of Mendota, and B. H. Randall, of Ft. Snelling.

1853—The fourth territorial legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The Sixth district was again represented in the council by Martin McLeod. B. H. Randall was again in the house and the new member from the Sixth district was A. E. Ames. This legislature changed the boundary lines of certain counties and created certain new counties. The present Redwood county fell in Blue Earth county. In spite of these changes in county lines, the boundaries of the legislative districts remained the same.

Franklin Pierce having been elected president of the United States in the previous November, promptly proceeded after his inauguration, in accordance with the good old Jacksonian doctrine, to remove the Whig officeholders and distribute the spoils among the victors. The new territorial appointees were: Governor, Willis A. Gorman, of Indiana; secretary, J. T. Rosser, of Virginia; chief justice, W. H. Welch, of Minnesota; associates, Moses Sherburne, of Maine, and A. G. Chatfield, of Wisconsin. Soon after entering on the duties of his office, Governor Gorman concluded a treaty at Watab with the Winnebago Indians for an exchange of territory. At the election in October Henry M. Rice was elected delegate to Congress.

1854—In 1854 the legislature of Minnesota for the first time assembled in a regular capitol building, its previous sessions having been held haphazard wherever accommodations could be had. This building, which was started as early as 1851, was totally destroyed by fire on the evening of March 1, 1881, while both branches of the legislature were in session. Some of the more valuable papers in the various offices were saved, but the

law library and many thousands of documents and reports were burned. The total loss was about \$200,000. The present "Old Capitol" was erected on the site of the first building. The fifth session assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The Sixth district was represented in the council by Joseph R. Brown; and in the house by Heseekiah Fletcher and William H. Nobles.

1855—The sixth territorial legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned March 3. Joseph R. Brown again represented the Sixth district in the council, and Henry H. Sibley and D. M. Hanson represented the district in the house.

By the apportionment of 1855 the present Redwood county with the rest of the then Brown county was placed in the Tenth district with Le Sueur, Steele, Faribault, Blue Earth, Renville, Nicollet, Sibley and Pierce.

1856—The seventh territorial legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 1. The Tenth district was represented in the council by C. E. Flandrau, and in the house by Parsons K. Johnson, Aurelius F. de La Vergne and George A. McLeod.

1857—The eighth and last territorial legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The extra session lasted from April 27 to May 20. The tenth district was represented in the council by P. P. Humphrey and in the house by Joseph R. Brown, Francis Baasen and O. A. Thomas.

### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

March 3, 1857, congress passed an act authorizing the people of Minnesota to form a state constitution. Each council district was to be represented in this convention by two representatives for each councilman and representative to which it was entitled. The constitutional convention, consisting of 108 members, was authorized to meet at the capital on the second Monday in July, to frame a state constitution and submit it to the people of the territory. The election was held on the first Monday in June, 1857. July 13 the delegates met but, a disagreement arising in the organization, the Republican members organized one body and the Democrats another, fifty-nine delegates being given seats in the former and fifty-three in the latter, making 112 in all. Each of these bodies, claiming to be the legally constituted convention, proceeded with the work of formulating an instrument to be submitted to the people. After some days an understanding was effected between them, and by means of a committee of conference, the same constitution was framed and adopted by both bodies. On being submitted to the people, October 13, 1857, it was ratified.

The Tenth district was represented in the Republican wing by



Amos Cogswell, Lewis McKune, and Edwin Page Davis. On the Democratic side, from the Tenth district, sat: Joseph R. Brown, C. E. Flandrau, Francis Baasen, William B. McMahon, and J. B. Swan. Of these, Joseph R. Brown had been the Indian agent living at the Lower Sioux Agency in what is now Redwood county.

The history of this convention is so graphically given by W. H. C. Folsom, who was one of its members, in his interesting volume, "Fifty Years in the Northwest," that we quote it almost entire:

"The state was nearly equally divided between the Republicans and Democrats, still the question of politics did not enter largely into the contest except as a question of party supremacy. The people were a unit on the question of organizing a state government under the enabling act and in many cases there was but a single ticket in the field. It was a matter, therefore, of some surprise that there should be a separation among the delegates into opposing factions, resulting practically in the formation of two conventions, each claiming to represent the people and each proposing a constitution. The delegates, although but 108 were called, were numbered on the rolls of the two wings as 59 Republican and 53 Democratic, a discrepancy arising from some irregularity of enrollment, by which certain memberships were counted twice. The Republican members, claiming a bare majority, took possession of the hall at midnight, twelve hours before the legal time for opening the convention, the object being to obtain control of the offices and committees of the convention, a manifest advantage in the matter of deciding upon contested seats.

"In obedience to the call of the leaders of the party, issued the day before, the writer, with other Republicans, repaired to the house at the appointed hour, produced his credentials as a delegate, and was conducted into the illuminated hall by Hon. John W. North. The delegates were dispersed variously about the hall, some chatting together, others reading newspapers, smoking or snoring, and here and there one had fallen asleep in his seat. Occasionally a delegate nervously examined his revolver as if he anticipated some necessity for its use.

"The Democratic delegates were elsewhere, probably plotting in secret conclave to capture the hall, and perhaps it might be well enough to be prepared for the worst. Thus the remainder of the night passed and the forenoon of July 13. As soon as the clock struck twelve the Democratic delegates rushed tumultuously in, as if with the purpose of capturing the speaker's stand. That, however, was already occupied by the Republican delegates and the storming party was obliged to content itself with the lower steps of the stand. Both parties at the moment the clock ceased striking were yelling "order" vociferously, and nominating their officers pro tem. Both parties effected a tem-

porary organization, although in the uproar and confusion it was difficult to know what was done.

"The Democratic wing adjourned at once to the senate chamber and there effected a permanent organization. The Republicans, being left in undisturbed possession of the hall, perfected their organization, and the two factions set themselves diligently to work to frame a constitution, each claiming to be the legally constituted convention, and expecting recognition as such by the people of the state and congress. The debates in each were acrimonious. A few of the more moderate delegates in each recognized the absurdity and illegality of their position and questioned the propriety of remaining and participating in proceedings which they could not sanction.

"The conventions continued their sessions inharmoniously enough. Each framed a constitution, at the completion of which a joint committee was appointed to revise and harmonize the two constitutions, but the members of the committees were as belligerent as the conventions they represented. Members grew angry, abusing each other with words and even blows, blood being drawn in an argument with bludgeons between two of the delegates. An agreement seemed impossible, when some one whose name has not found its way into history, made the happy suggestion that alternate articles of each constitution be adopted. When this was done, and the joint production of the two conventions was in presentable shape, another and almost fatal difficulty arose, as to which wing should be accorded the honor of signing officially this remarkable document. One body or the other must acknowledge the paternity of the hybrid. Ingenuity amounting to genius (it is a pity that the possessor should be unknown) found a new expedient, namely, to write out two constitutions in full, exact duplicates except as to signatures, the one to be signed by Democratic officers and members and the other by Republicans. These two constitutions were filed in the archives of the state and one of them, which one will probably never be known, was adopted by the people October 13, 1857."

Mr. Folsom is slightly in error. The enabling act did not specify any hour for the meeting of the convention, nor did it designate any definite place in the capitol where the sessions should be held, both of which omissions contributed to the confusion in organization. W. W. Folwell, in his "History of Minnesota," narrates the preliminaries as follows: "To make sure of being on hand, the Republican delegates repaired to the capitol late on the Sunday night preceding the first Monday in June and remained there, as one of them phrased it, 'to watch and pray for the Democratic brethren.' These did not appear till a few moments before twelve o'clock of the appointed day. Immediately upon their entrance in a body into the representatives'

hall Charles R. Chase, secretary of the territory and a delegate, proceeded to the speaker's desk and called to order. A motion to adjourn was made by Colonel Gorman, and the question was taken by Chase, who declared it carried. The Democrats left the hall to the Republicans, who proceeded to organize the convention. Fifty-six delegates presented credentials in proper form and took their oaths to support the constitution of the United States. At noon of Tuesday the Democratic delegates assembled about the door of the hall, and finding it occupied by citizens who refused to give them place, met in the adjacent council chamber and proceeded to organize the convention. Henry H. Sibley was made chairman, on motion of Joseph R. Brown, and later became president of the body."

After the adjournment of the constitutional convention the Republicans and Democrats held their party conventions, each nominating a full state ticket and three candidates for Congress. The Republican candidate for governor was Alexander Ramsey and the Democratic candidate Henry H. Sibley. The election was held October 13, 1857, the constitution being adopted by an overwhelming vote; H. H. Sibley was elected governor by a majority of only 240 in a total of 35,240 votes, and the Democrats had a small majority in the legislature.

### STATE REPRESENTATION.

The first Minnesota state legislature assembled December 2, 1857. There was a serious question, however, as to whether it was really a state legislature, as Minnesota had not yet been admitted to the Union. There was a question as to the recognition of Samuel Medary, the territorial governor, as governor of the state, but by a vote of 59 to 49 he was so recognized by the legislature, and he, in turn, in his message recognized the law-making body as a state legislature. None of the state officers could take the oath of office, and the Republican members of the legislature entered a formal protest against any business whatever being done until after the admission of the state as a member of the Union. But the Democrats, having a majority, decided to hold a joint convention December 19 for the election of two United States senators. Henry M. Rice was elected for the long term on the first ballot, but it was not until after several ballotings that General James Shields won the short term. He was a new comer from Illinois and his election was a bitter pill for many of the old Democratic war-horses, such as Sibley, Steele, Brown and Gorman.

As a means of relieving the state from the awkward predicament in which it was placed, the legislature adopted, March 1, an amendment to the constitution authorizing the newly-elected

officers to qualify May 1, whether the state was admitted by that date or not, this amendment to be submitted to the voters at an election called for April 15. A second amendment, submitted at the same time, provided for the famous \$5,000,000 railroad bond loan, which was the cause of great loss and great bitterness to the people. Both amendments were overwhelmingly adopted, but in November, 1860, the bond amendment was expunged from the constitution, after \$2,275,000 bonds had been issued. The legislature, March 25, took a recess until June 2.

In the meantime the steps looking toward the recognition of Minnesota's statehood by congress had lagged sadly. For some unknown reason, President Buchanan had delayed until the middle of January, 1858, transmitting to the United States senate the constitution adopted by the people. A bill for the admission of Minnesota as a state was introduced by Stephen A. Douglas, chairman of the committee on territories. When this bill came up February 1, there was a prolonged discussion, a number of the senators being in opposition because it would add another to the number of free states, thus disturbing the "balance of power" between the free and slave states. Among those participating in the debate were Senators Douglas, Wilson, Gwin, Hale, Mason, Green, Brown and Crittenden, the latter being much more moderate in his expressions than most of his fellow senators from the South. The debate continued until April 8, when the English bill, which provided for the admission of Kansas as a supposed slave state having passed, the opposition ceased, and Minnesota's bill was adopted by a vote of 49 to 3. The bill then went to the house, where it met the same kind of objections as had been raised in the senate, the English bill standing in the way until May 4, when it was passed. One week later, May 11, the bill admitting Minnesota, passed the house by a vote of 157 to 38, the following day receiving the approval of the President, and May 12, 1858, Minnesota obtained full recognition as a state in the Union. Informal news of the action of congress reached St. Paul, by telegraphic information brought from La Crosse, Wis., May 13, but the official notice was not received until some days later, and May 24 the state officers elected in October, 1858, took their oaths of office.

1857-58—The first state legislature, as already noted, assembled December 2, 1857. On March 25, 1858, it took a recess until June 28, and finally adjourned August 12. The state was admitted May 11, 1858. It will, therefore, be seen that, although this legislature is called the first state legislature, nevertheless it assembled in territorial times.

By the apportionment of 1857, set forth in the state constitution adopted Oct. 13, 1857, Nicollet and Brown counties (then including the present Redwood) constituted the Seventeenth legis-

lative district, with one senator and three representatives. The counties of Le Sueur, Sibley, Nicolett, Blue Earth, Faribault, McLeod, Renville, Brown and all other counties not included within other judicial districts, were constituted the Sixth judicial district. The Seventeenth legislative district was represented in the senate by Thomas Cowan, and in the house by Ephraim Pierce, Albert Tuttle and Frederick Redfield.

1858-59—No session was held in the winter of 1858-59, mainly owing to the protracted session of 1857-58, which was believed to render unnecessary another one following so soon, the legislature of that year having so provided by enactment.

1859-60—The second state legislature assembled December 7, 1859, and adjourned March 12, 1860. The Seventeenth district was represented in the senate by Thomas Cowan, and in the house by John Armstrong, E. Rehfeld and William Pfaender.

By the apportionment of 1860, all of the present Redwood county was included in the Nineteenth district, which was to consist of Nicolett, Sibley, Renville, Pierce and Davis counties, and that portion of Brown county west of Range 33. The district was to have one senator and two representatives.

1861—The third state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by James W. Linde and the house by M. G. Hanscome and E. E. Paulding.

1862—The fourth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 4. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Henry A. Swift and in the house by M. J. Severance and Adam Buck, Jr.

On account of the Indian outbreak in 1862, an extra session was called by the governor. It assembled September 9 and adjourned September 29. The officers and members were the same as at the regular session, except that L. K. Asker, from the Ninth district, was not present at the regular session, but presented his credentials to the second session.

1863—The fifth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Henry A. Swift and in the house by William Huey and W. Tennant.

1864—The sixth state legislature assembled January 5, and adjourned March 5. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Henry A. Swift and in the house by Samuel Coffin and William Huey.

1865—The seventh state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned March 3. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Henry A. Swift and in the house by Hamilton Beatty and Henry Poehler.

1866—The eighth state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Charles T. Brown, of St. Peter, and in the house by Thomas Russell and J. S. G. Honner. At that time, Mr. Honner lived in Redwood Falls. Later he moved to the Minnesota bottoms in what is now Honner township.

By the apportionment of 1866 Redwood county was placed in the Nineteenth district with Nicollet, Brown, Sibley, Renville, Pierce and Davis counties. It was to be represented by one senator and two representatives.

1867—The ninth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Adam Buck, of Henderson, and in the house by Charles T. Brown and D. G. Shillock, of New Ulm.

1868—The tenth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 6. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Charles T. Brown and in the house by John C. Rudolph, of New Ulm, and Adam Buck.

1869—The eleventh state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Charles T. Brown and in the house by J. C. Rudolph and J. C. Stoevers, of Henderson.

1870—The twelfth state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 3. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by William Pfaender, of New Ulm, and in the house by William L. Couplin, of St. Peter, and P. H. Swift, of Beaver Falls.

1871—The thirteenth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 3. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by William Pfaender and in the house by W. L. Couplin and J. S. G. Honner.

By the apportionment of 1871 Redwood county was placed in the Thirty-seventh district, with Brown and Lyon counties, to be represented by one senator and two representatives.

1872—The fourteenth state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The Thirty-seventh district was represented in the senate by William Pfaender and in the house by O. S. Reishus, of Yellow Medicine, and Henry Weyhe, of New Ulm.

1873—The fifteenth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The Thirty-seventh district was represented in the senate by J. S. G. Honner and in the house by J. W. Blake, of Marshall, and Charles C. Brandt, of Brown county.

1874—The sixteenth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The Thirty-seventh district was represented in the senate by J. S. G. Honner and in the house by Ziba B. Clark, of Lac qui Parle, and Charles Hansing.

1875—The seventeenth state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The Thirty-seventh district was represented in the senate by John W. Blake and in the house by H. S. Berg, of New Ulm, and Knud H. Helling, of New Ulm.

1876—The eighteenth state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 3. The Thirty-seventh district was represented in the senate by John W. Blake and in the house by Peter F. Jacobson, of Lac qui Parle, and William Skinner, of Brown county.

1877—The nineteenth state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The Thirty-seventh district was represented in the senate by S. A. Hall, of Wood Lake, and in the house by David Worst, of Redwood county, and E. P. Bertrand, of Brown county.

1878—The twentieth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The Thirty-seventh district was represented in the senate by S. A. Hall and in the house by J. W. Williams, of Marshall and Charles C. Brandt.

1879—The twenty-first state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The Thirty-seventh district was represented in the senate by K. H. Helling and in the house by Gorham Powers, of Granite Falls, and J. P. Bertrand.

1881—The twenty-second state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The Thirty-seventh district was represented in the senate by S. B. Peterson of New Ulm, and in the house by J. C. Zeiske, of Sleepy Eye, and G. W. Braley, of Redwood Falls. Beginning with this year, a resident of Redwood county has sat in every session of the legislature.

By the apportionment of 1881, Redwood county was placed in the Ninth district with Brown county and was entitled to one senator and two representatives.

An extra session was called for the purpose of considering the legislation at the regular session relating to the state railroad bonds, which were declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. The session was commenced October 11 and closed November 13.

1883—The twenty-third state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The Ninth district was represented in the senate by S. D. Peterson, and in the house by Joseph Bobleter, of New Ulm, and Orlando B. Turrell, of Redwood Falls.

1885—The twenty-fourth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 2. The Ninth district was represented in the senate by S. D. Peterson and in the house by William Skinner and Orlando B. Turrell.

1887—The twenty-fifth state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The Ninth district was represented in the senate by Thomas E. Bowen, of Sleepy Eye, and in the house



by William Skinner and J. N. Jones, of Westline, Redwood county.

1889—The twenty-sixth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 23. The Ninth district was represented in the senate by T. E. Bowen and in the house by James McMillan, of Redwood Falls, and C. W. H. Heidemann, of New Ulm.

By the apportionment of 1889 Redwood county remained in the Ninth district with Brown county, to be represented by one senator and two representatives.

1891—The twenty-seventh state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 20. The Ninth district was represented in the senate by S. D. Peterson and in the house by Orlando B. Turrell and Christian Ahlness, of Brown county.

1893—The twenty-eighth state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. The Ninth district was represented in the senate by S. D. Peterson and in the house by William Skinner and Orlando B. Turrell.

1895—The twenty-ninth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 23. The Ninth district was represented in the senate by E. D. French, of Redwood Falls, and in the house by J. N. Jones and Nels Christenson, of Brown county.

1897—The thirtieth state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned April 21. The Ninth district was represented in the senate by E. D. French and in the house by Henry Heimerdinger, of Brown county, and James A. Larson, of Walnut Grove, Redwood county.

By the apportionment of 1897 Redwood county was placed in the Nineteenth district, with Brown county, to be represented by one senator and two representatives.

1899—The thirty-first state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by George W. Somerville, of Sleepy Eye, and in the house by Henry Heimerdinger and James A. Larson.

1901—The thirty-second state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 12. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by George W. Somerville and in the house by S. D. Peterson and James A. Larson.

An extra session was called for the purpose of considering the report of the Fox Commission created by Chapter 13, General Laws of A. D. 1901. The extra session convened February 4, 1902, and adjourned March 11, 1902.

1903—The thirty-third state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 12. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by George W. Somerville and in the house by S. D. Peterson and Frank Clague, then of Lamberton, Redwood county, now of Redwood Falls.

1905—The thirty-fourth state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by George W. Somerville and in the house by S. D. Peterson and Frank Clague.

1907—The thirty-fifth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 22. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Frank Clague and in the house by S. D. Peterson and C. M. Bendixen, of Three Lakes, Redwood county.

1909—The thirty-sixth state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned April 22. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Frank Clague and in the house by C. M. Bendixen and Albert Pfaender, of New Ulm.

1911—The thirty-seventh state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 19. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Frank Clague and in the house by Joseph R. Keefe, of North Redwood, Redwood county, and Albert Pfaender.

An extra session was called for the purpose of enacting a state-wide direct primary law applicable to all state officers, a corrupt practices act and a reapportionment law. The extra session convened June 4, 1912, and adjourned June 18, 1912.

1913—The thirty-eight state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned April 24. The Nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Frank Clague and in the house by Albert Pfander and C. M. Bendixen.

At several successive sessions of the legislature prior to that of 1913 attempts had been made to secure a new apportionment. The last had been in 1897 and a great change in the population had taken place in the meantime—the northern part of the state having increased while in the southern part the gain had been slight, in some counties an actual loss having taken place. At the 1913 session, after a protracted struggle, a compromise bill was agreed upon, by which the number of senators was increased to 67, and the number of representatives to 130, although the legislature was already one of the largest in the United States and altogether out of proportion to the population. By this apportionment, Redwood county was placed in the Fourteenth district with Brown county and was to be represented by one senator and three representatives.

1915—The thirty-ninth state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned April 22. The Fourteenth district was represented in the senate by L. E. Potter of Springfield and in the house by Albert Hauser of Sleepy Eye, Alfred W. Mueller of New Ulm and C. M. Bendixen.

**Congressional Representation.** Redwood county has never elected any of its residents to Congress, though Orlando B. Turrell was once a formidable candidate for the Republican nomi-

nation. Since the apportionment of 1871, Redwood county has remained in the Second Congressional district with the exception of the period from 1901 to 1913 when it was in the Seventh district. The Second district now consists of Blue Earth, Faribault, Martin, Watonwan, Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Murray, Redwood and Lincoln counties.

**Authority and References.** Fifty Years in the Northwest, by W. H. C. Folsom.

Legislative Manual of the State of Minnesota.

History of Minnesota by Edward D. Neill.

History of Minnesota, by W. W. Folwell.

Minnesota in Three Centuries, by Return I. Holcombe.

Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, Vol. 14, Minnesota Biographies, by Warren Upham and Mrs. Rose B. Dunlap.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### RIVER TRANSPORTATION.

Minnesota received its name from the longest river which lies wholly within this state, excepting only its sources above Big Stone lake. During a hundred and sixty years, up to the time of the organization of Minnesota Territory, in 1849, the name St. Pierre, or St. Peter, had been generally applied to this river by French and English explorers and writers, probably in honor of Pierre Charles Le Sueur, its first white explorer. The aboriginal Sioux name Minnesota means clouded water (Minne, water, and sota, somewhat clouded), and Neill, on the authority of Rev. Gideon H. Pond, poetically translated this to mean sky-tinted. The river at its stages of flood becomes whitish turbid. An illustration of the meaning of the word has been told by Mrs. Moses N. Adams, the widow of the venerable missionary of the Dakotas. She states that at various times the Dakota women explained it to her by dropping a little milk into water and calling the whitish clouded water "Minne sota." This name was proposed by General H. H. Sibley and Hon. Morgan L. Martin, of Wisconsin, in the years 1846 to 1848, as the name of the new territory, which thus followed the example of Wisconsin in adopting the title of a large stream within its borders.

During the next few years after the selection of the territorial name Minnesota, it displaced the name of St. Peter as applied in common usage by the white people to the river, whose euphonious ancient Dakota title will continue to be borne by the river and the state probably long after the Dakota language shall cease to be spoken.

The Chippewa name for the stream, Ash-kübogi-sibi, "The River of the Green Leaf," is now nearly forgotten, and the French name St. Pierre is known only by historians.

The picturesque river which gave our commonwealth its name had always been an important feature in the geography and history of this northwest country.

The geologist reads in the deep erosion of this valley, and in its continuance to Lake Traverse, which outflows to Lake Winnipeg and Hudson bay, the story of a mighty river, the outlet of a vast ancient lake covering the Red river region in the closing part of the Glacial period. What use, if any, the primitive men of that time made of this majestic stream, we know not.

Many and varied have been the scenes enacted upon its banks, scenes of thrilling adventure and glorious valor, as well as of happy merriment and tender love. It was for centuries the arena of many a sanguinary conflict, and the blood of the Iowas, Dakotas, Ojibways, and white men, often mingled freely with its flood.

For generations unknown the only craft its bosom bore was the canoe of the Indian. Then came the French traders, with their retinue of voyagers, who made our river an avenue of a great commerce in Indian goods and costly furs. For over a hundred years fleets of canoes and mackinaw boats, laden with Indian merchandise, plied constantly along the river's sinuous length. The sturdy voyagers, however, left to history but a scant record of their adventurous life. A brave and hardy race were they, inured to every peril and hardship, yet ever content and happy; and long did the wooded bluffs of the Minnesota echo with the songs of old France.

The first white men known to have navigated the Minnesota were Le Sueur and his party of miners, who entered its mouth in a felucca and two row boats on September 20, 1700, and reached the mouth of the Blue Earth on the thirtieth of the same month. The next spring he carried with him down the river a boat-load of blue or green shale which he had dug from the bluffs of the Blue Earth, in mistake for copper ore. Much more profitable, doubtless, he found the boat-load of beaver and other Indian furs, which he took with him at the same time. This is the first recorded instance of freight transportation on the Minnesota river.

In the winter of 1819-20, a deputation of Lord Selkirk's Scotch colony, who had settled near the site of Winnipeg, traveled through Minnesota to Prairie du Chien, a journey of about a thousand miles, to purchase seed wheat. On April 15, 1820, they started back in three Mackinaw boats loaded with 200 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of oats, and 30 bushels of peas. During the month of May they ascended the Minnesota from its mouth

to its source, and, dragging their loaded boats over the portage on rollers, descended the Red river to their homes, which they reached early in June.

The Mackinaw or keel boats used on the river in those days were open vessels of from twenty to fifty feet in length by four to ten feet in width, and capable of carrying from two to eight tons burden.

They were propelled by either oars or poles as the exigencies of the river might require. The crew usually comprised from five to nine men. One acted as steersman, and, in poling, the others, ranging themselves in order upon a plank laid lengthwise of the boat on each side, would push the boat ahead; and as each, in rotation, reached the stern, he would pick up his pole and start again at the prow. Their progress in ascending the river would be from five to fifteen miles per day, depending upon the stage of the water and the number of rapids they had to climb.

Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, the noted missionary to the Indians, in describing his first journey up the valley of the Minnesota, in June, 1835, gives an interesting account of how he shipped his wife and children and his fellow helpers, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Huggins, with their goods, on one of these boats, which was nine days in making the trip from Fort Snelling to Traverse des Sioux.

In the correspondence of Mrs. S. R. Riggs, the wife of another famous missionary to the Sioux, is found a vivid picture of a Mackinaw boat, belonging to the old Indian trader, Philander Prescott, in which she ascended the Minnesota in September, 1837. It was about forty feet long by eight feet wide and capable of carrying about five tons. It was manned by a crew of five persons, one to steer, and two on each side to furnish the motive power. Oars were used as far as to the Little Rapids, about three miles above Carver, and thence to Traverse des Sioux poles were employed. The journey consumed five days.

Illustrative of the size and capacity of some of the canoes used by the traders, we find George A. McLeod in April, 1853, bringing down from Las qui Parle to Traverse des Sioux forty bushels of potatoes, besides a crew of five men, in a single canoe twenty-five feet long by forty-four inches wide, hollowed out of a huge cottonwood tree.

The first steamboat to enter the Minnesota river was the Virginia on May 10, 1823. She was not a large vessel, being only 118 feet long by 22 feet wide, and she only ascended as far as Mendota and Fort Snelling, which during the period between the years 1820 and 1848 were about the only points of importance in the territory now embraced within our state. Hence all the

boats navigating the upper Mississippi in those days had to enter the Minnesota to reach these terminal points.

Except for these landings at its mouth, and save that in 1842 a small steamer with a party of excursionists on board ascended it as far as the old Indian village near Shakopee, no real attempt was made to navigate the Minnesota with steamboats until 1850. Prior to this time it was not seriously thought that the river was navigable to any great distance for any larger craft than a keel boat, and the demonstration to the contrary, then witnessed, has made that year notable in the history of the state.

On June 28, 1850, the Anthony Wayne, which had just arrived at St. Paul with a pleasure party from St. Louis, agreed to take all passengers for \$225 as far up the Minnesota as navigation was possible. They reached the foot of the rapids near Carver, the captain decided not to continue the passage, turned the steamboat homeward. Emulous of the Wayne's achievement, the Nominee, a rival boat, arranged another excursion July 12, ascended the Minnesota, passing the formidable rapids, placing her shingle three miles higher up the river. The Wayne, not to be outdone, on July 18 with a third excursion party, ascended the river two or three miles below the present city of Mankato. The success of these boats incited the Harris' line to advertise a big excursion on the Yankee, and that steamer reached a point on the Minnesota river a little above the present village of Judson, in Blue Earth county.

The steamer Excelsior, in the summer of 1851, conveyed the treaty commissioners, their attendants and supplies to Traverse des Sioux, and later the Benjamin Franklin No. 1 ascended the river with a load of St. Paul's excursionists to witness the progress of the famous treaty. In the fall the Uncle Toby conveyed to Travers des Sioux the first load of Indian goods under the new treaty.

The springing up of embryo towns in the Minnesota Valley stimulated steamboat transportation, and during the early season of 1852, the steamboat Tiger made three trips to Mankato. The midsummer rains having restored the navigable condition of the river, the Black Hawk was chartered in July for three trips to Mankato. She also made during the season two trips to Babcock's Landing, opposite the present site of St. Peter, and one to Traverse des Sioux. The Jenny Lind and Enterprise were also engaged in the traffic.

Navigation was opened on the Minnesota in 1853 by the new boat, the Greek Slave; the Clarion, also new, entered the trade this year.

Two events of 1853, of much importance in the development of the Minnesota river trade, were the establishing upon its head

waters of the Sioux Reservation and the erection in its vicinity of Ft. Ridgely. The necessity thus created, of transporting to such a distance up the river the large quantity of supplies required annually by both soldier and Indian, gave an impetus for years to the steamboat traffic of the Minnesota.

The West Newton, Capt. D. S. Harris, secured the contract to convey the troops with their baggage from Fort Snelling to the new post. She was a small packet, 150 feet long and of 300 tons burden, and had been bought the summer before by the Harris brothers to compete with the Nominee in the Mississippi river trade. She left Ft. Snelling on Wednesday, the twenty-seventh of April, 1853, having on board two companies of the Sixth U. S. Regiment, in command of Captains Dana and Monroe. To help carry baggage, she had two barges in tow. The Tiger had also departed from St. Paul on the twenty-fifth, and the Clarion on the twenty-sixth, each with a couple of barges in tow, heavily loaded with supplies for the new fort and the agencies. The West Newton, being the swiftest boat, passed the Clarion at Henderson, and the Tiger near the Big Cottonwood, and thence to the site of the new fort (Ft. Ridgely) at the mouth of Little Rock creek, was the first steamer to disturb the waters of our sky-tinted river.

The Minnesota this year remained navigable all summer, and a number of boats ascended it to Ft. Ridgely and the Lower Sioux Agency, while others went to Mankato and other points. The passenger travel, as well as the freight trade, was excellent.

The winter of 1853-1854 was mild and open; the river broke up early without the usual freshet. Owing to the success of the prior season, the boatmen had great expectations. They were, however, doomed to disappointment. Capt. Samuel Humbertson, who owned the stern wheel steamboat, Clarion, had sold it and purchased a fine new boat, 170 feet long with thirty-eight staterooms, which he called the Minnesota Belle. May 3, with a large load of immigrants and freight, he started up the Minnesota. His new boat failed to climb the Little Rapids, near Carver, and he had to abandon the trip. A rainfall a few days later swelled the river, and enabled the Black Hawk to reach Traverse des Sioux. The Iola and Montello, during the summer, ran fairly regular trips between Little Rapids and Traverse des Sioux supplementing the Black Hawk, Humboldt and other boats plying below the rapids.

Large keel boats, denominated barges, propelled after the ancient method by a crew of men with poles, became common on the river this year. Andrew G. Myrick placed two of these barges on the river in charge of the Russell boys. These vessels were from 50 to 60 feet long, 10 to 12 feet wide, and with sides 4 to 5 feet high, along the top of which was fastened a plank



walk, for the use of the pole men. A small low cabin for the cook was built in the stern, and during foul weather a big tarpaulin was spread over the goods. A full crew consisted of a captain, who also acted as steersman, ten to a dozen pole men, and a cook. With a fair stage of water the usual speed up stream was twelve to fourteen miles a day, but if sandbars or rapids interfered a mile or two would be a hard day's journey. Down stream, however, they would travel much faster. Most of the supplies for Ft. Ridgely and the Sioux Agencies, as well as for all up river towns, had to be transported this year in such barges.

The snowfall in the winter of 1854-1855 was again light, consequently the Minnesota continued low during the following spring. Louis Robert, having the contract this year to deliver the Sioux annuities, took them up to the agency late in October in the *Globe*, of which Edwin Bell was then captain. Within two miles of the landing the boat struck on a rock, and the goods had to be unloaded on the river bank. While Captains Robert and Bell were gone to carry the Indian money, amounting to \$90,000 in gold, to Ft. Ridgely, the Indians, who were gathered in force to divide the provisions, carelessly set fire to the dry grass, which was quickly communicated to the pile of goods, and most of them, including fifty kegs of powder, were destroyed.

Of his experiences, Capt. Edwin Bell had said: "In 1855 I had command of the steamer *Globe*, making trips on the Minnesota river, and in the early fall of that year we carried supplies to the Sioux at Redwood Agency. The Indians would come down the river several miles to meet the boat. They were like a lot of children, and when the steamboat approached they would shout, 'Nitonka Pata-wata washta,' meaning 'Your big fire-canoe is good.' They would then cut across the bend, yelling until we reached the landing.

"In the fall of that year, 1855, their supplies were late, when I received orders from Agent Murphy to turn over to the Indians twelve barrels of pork, and twelve barrels of flour. As soon as we landed, we rolled the supplies on shore. I was informed that the Indians were in a starving condition. It was amusing to see five or six of them rolling a barrel of pork up the bank, when two of our deck hands would do the work in half the time.

"A young Indian girl stood at the end of the gang plank, wringing her hands and looking toward the boat, exclaiming 'Sunka sanicha,' meaning 'They have my dog.' The cabin boy told me the cook had coaxed the dog on board and hid it. I could speak the language so as to be understood, and I motioned to the girl and said, 'Niye kuwa,' meaning 'Come here.' She came on board, and I told the cook to bring the dog to me.

When the dog came, she caught it in her arms, exclaiming, 'Sunka wasta,' meaning 'Good dog.' She then ran on shore and up the hill. It seemed to me that white people took advantage of the Indian when they could, even steamboat cooks.

"When the flour and pork were on level ground, the barrel heads were knocked in, and the pork was cut in small strips and thrown in a pile. Two hundred squaws then formed a circle, and several Indians handed the pieces of pork to the squaws until the pile was disposed of. The flour was placed in tin pans, each squaw receiving a panful.

"Later, in the same season, we had an unfortunate trip. The boat was loaded deep. Luckily Agent Murphy and Capt. Louis Robert were on board. We had in the cabin of the boat ninety thousand dollars in gold. About three miles below the agency, we ran on a large boulder. After much effort, we got the boat afloat. Major Murphy gave orders to land the goods, so that they might be hauled to the agency. We landed and unloaded, covering the goods with tarpaulins. There were about fifty kegs of powder with the goods. While we were unloading, the agent sent for a team to take Captain Robert and himself, with the gold, to the agency. Then we started down the river. We had gone only a few miles, when we discovered a dense smoke, caused by a prairie fire. The smoke was rolling toward the pile of goods, which we had left in charge of two men. When we reached the ferry at Red Bank, a man on horseback motioned us to land, and told us that the goods we left were all burned up and the powder exploded. This was a sad blow to the Indians.

"The following is a list of the steamboats running on the Minnesota river, during high water, in the year 1855 and later: Clarion, Captain Humberson; Globe, Capt. Edwin Bell; Time and Tide, Capt. Nelson Robert; Jeannett Roberts, Capt. Charles Timmens; Mollie Moler, Captain Houghton; Minnesota, Captain Hays; and the Frank Steel and Favorite, both side-wheel steamers. These boats were drawn off when the water got low; and when the railroad paralleled the river, all boats quit running.

"On the sixteenth day of December, 1895, I called on Governor Ramsey again, to talk over old times, forty-five years after my first call. What changes have taken place since then! When I started to leave, I thought I would see how much the governor remembered of the Sioux language. I said, 'Governor, nitonka tepee, washta.' 'What did you say, captain?' asked the governor. I replied, 'Nitonka tepee, washta,' 'Why, captain,' said he, 'that means, my house is large and good;' and, with a wink, 'Captain, let's have a nip.' Of course we nipped, and said 'Ho!' All old settlers will know the meaning of the Sioux exclamation, 'Ho!'"

A good fall of snow during the winter of 1855-56 caused an

abundant supply of water in the river next spring. The navigation of the Minnesota for the season of 1856 was opened on April 10 by the *Reveille*, a stern-wheel packet, in command of Capt. R. M. Spencer. Four days later, the *Globe*, with Nelson Robert as captain, departed from St. Paul for the same river, and she was followed the next day by the H. S. Allen.

The *Reveille* was considered a fast traveler, and as an instance of her speed it is recorded that on her second trip of this year she left St. Paul at 2 p. m. on Thursday, April 17, with 132 passengers and a full load of freight, and arrived at Mankato by Saturday; and that leaving the latter place at 5 a. m. the next day, she reached St. Paul by 8 p. m. that evening, after having made twenty-four landings on the way.

On May 5, the *Reveille* landed at Mankato a company of settlers numbering two or three hundred, known as the Mapleton Colony; and the following Saturday (May 10) the H. T. Yeatman landed at South Bend a company of Welsh settlers from Ohio, numbering 121 souls. The Yeatman was a large stern-wheel boat, about the largest that ascended the Minnesota, and this was her first trip. She continued in the trade only a few weeks, while the water was high. Her captain was Samuel G. Cabbell. Regular trips were made this year by several boats to Ft. Ridgely and the Lower Sioux Agency, and some ascended to the Upper Agency, at the mouth of the Yellow Medicine river.

The time table of Louis Robert's fine packet, the *Time and Tide*, issued for this season, shows the distance from St. Paul to Yellow Medicine to be 446 miles. To an old settler who actually traveled on a Minnesota river steamboat in those early days, the idea of a time table may seem rather amusing; for if there was anything more uncertain as to its coming and going, or more void of any idea of regularity than a steamboat the old time traveler never heard of it. Now stopping in some forest glen for wood, now tangled in the overhanging boughs of a tree with one or both smoke-stacks demolished, now fast for hours on some sandbar, and now tied up to a tree to repair the damage done by some snag, while the passengers sat on the bank telling stories, or went hunting, or feasted on the luscious wild strawberries or juicy plums which grew abundantly in the valley, were common occurrences in steamboat travel. Many a pioneer remembers the *Time and Tide*, and how its jolly captain, Louis Robert, would sing out with sonorous voice, when the boat was about to start, "All aboard! *Time and Tide* waits for no man," and then add, with a sly twinkle in his eye, "and only a few minutes for a woman." Though we of today may think such method of travel tedious, yet it had many pleasant features, and to the people of that time, unaccustomed to the "flyers" and "fast mails" of today, it seemed quite satisfactory.

The Minnesota river trade was unusually brisk in 1857 owing to a good stage of water. Two new boats entered this year, the Frank Steele, a side-wheel packet, owned by Capt. W. F. Davidson, and the Jeannette Robert, a large stern-wheel packet, owned by Capt. Louis Robert. The total trips made during the season was 292, of which the Antelope made 105.

The winter of 1857-1858 proved very mild, and the Minnesota river broke up unusually early and was kept in good navigable condition during the season. The Freighter was the only new boat to engage in the trade this year. There were 179 arrivals at Mankato from points above as well as below the former, though did not exceed twenty-five or thirty. The total number of trips was 394, the Antelope again heading the list with 201 to her credit.

In 1859, the river broke up early after a mild winter, and the Freighter arrived at Mankato, the first boat, on March 27, having left St. Paul two days before. An abundant rainfall kept the river in good navigable condition its entire length through most of the season. The Favorite, an excellent side-wheel packet of good size, built expressly for the Minnesota trade by Commodore Davidson, entered as a new boat this spring.

As the water was quite high in the upper Minnesota, Capt. John B. Davis, of the Freighter, conceived the idea of crossing his boat over from the Minnesota to Big Stone lake and thence to the Red river, and accordingly, about the last of June he attempted the feat. Whether the crew found too much whiskey at New Ulm or the boat found too little water on the divide, authorities differ, but all agree that the captain and his crew came home in a canoe about the last of July, passing Mankato on the twenty-fifth of the month, having left his steamboat in dry dock near the Dakota line. The Freighter was a small, flat-bottomed, square-bowed boat. The Indians pillaged her of everything but the hull, and that, half buried in the sand about ten miles below Big Stone lake, remained visible for twenty or thirty years. The captain always claimed that if he had started a month earlier his attempt would have been successful.

The navigation on the Minnesota in 1860, owing to the low water, was mostly confined to the little Antelope, in her trips to Shakopee and Chaska. Of 250 arrivals at St. Paul she had to her credit 198. The new boat Albany, of very light draught, also the Eolian, which had been raised from the bottom of Lake Pepin, where she had lain since the spring of 1858, and the Little Dorrit were put into the trade instead of the Frank Steele, the Time and Tide and the Favorite, which came up as far as St. Peter for a trip or two. The Jeanette Robert managed to get up as far as Mankato a few times, and during a small freshet in July, made one trip to the Sioux Agency.

The spring of 1861 opened with a big flood in the Minnesota. The first boat, the Albany, left St. Paul on March 30, and arrived at Mankato April 1. She was officered by J. V. Webber, captain (who was now the owner, having purchased her from the Davidson company in March), Warren Goulden, first clerk, and Moses Gates, engineer. It was claimed by the older Indians and traders that the upper Minnesota was higher this spring than it had been since 1821. In April the Jeanette Robert ascended farther up the river by two miles than any steamboat had ever done before, and might easily have accomplished what the Freighter attempted and failed to do in 1859, to wit, pass over into the Red river, if she had tried; for the two rivers were united by their high flood between lakes Big Stone and Traverse.

This season the Minnesota Packet Company, of which Capt. Orrin Smith was president, put two first class boats, the City Belle and Fanny Harris, into the river to compete with the Davidson and Robert lines. The Fanny Harris, on her first trip, which occurred during the second week of April, went to Ft. Ridgely, and brought down Major (afterwards General) Thomas W. Sherman and his battery to quell the southern rebellion, which had just started. With her also went the Favorite, and brought down Major (afterwards General) John C. Pemberton, with his command of eighty soldiers, the most of whom being southern men, were much in sympathy with their seceding brethren.

The barges of Captain Cleveland were kept busy in the traffic between Mankato and points below. The first shipment of wheat in bulk from the Minnesota was made in June of this year, 1861, on one of these barges. It comprised 4,000 bushels, and was taken direct to La Crosse. Heretofore it had been shipped in sacks. Wheat had now become the principal export of the valley. During the earlier years all the freight traffic on the river had been imported, but by this time the export of trains had grown to be an important item. With so many Indians in the valley the shipment of furs, which at first had been about the only export of the country, still continued valuable; but furs, because of their small bulk, cut but little figure in the boating business. This year the value of the furs from the Sioux agencies was \$48,416; and from the Winnebago country, \$11,600.

From this time there was a gradual reduction in river traffic. In 1866 the St. Paul and Sioux City railroad reached Belle Plaine, and connections were there made with boats for points higher up the river. In October, 1868, Mankato was reached, and in 1871 the Northwestern railway reached New Ulm, which practically ended the navigation of the Minnesota river.

After the settlers came in 1864, navigation on the Minnesota was of but minor importance, though until 1875 boats continued

to ply that stream with some regularity, and some of the early pioneers reached this county by boat.

From 1865 to 1876, it was always possible for small boats to make a few trips to Redwood county in the spring.

In 1868 the Pioneer was chartered by D. L. Bigham in the spring, loaded with lumber at St. Paul, and the trip to the Redwood Falls landing successfully made.

In 1869 the business men of New Ulm bought the Otter for \$3,000. This boat had a capacity of some 3,000 bushels of wheat. Trips were made between Mankato and New Ulm several times each week, and a number of trips were made to Redwood county.

Later the St. Anthony, a St. Croix lumber boat, brought lumber to D. L. Bigham. Bringing lumber to the upper Minnesota was a hazardous proceeding in those days, and the lumber was sometimes scattered along the river banks from Carver to New Ulm.

The Tiger continued to ply the river, and once in a while made a record run. It is recorded that on May 14, 1870, the Tiger made the trip from the Redwood Falls landing to Mankato in thirteen and a half hours.

The Osceola, a small boat, owned by Mark D. Flowers and Captain Hawkins, ascended the Minnesota as far as Redwood once in 1872, twice in 1873 and once in 1874, the water having been low and navigation difficult.

In 1875 a large warehouse was built at the landing on the Minnesota, called Riverside, by a company, for the purpose of providing storage, and to give an outlet by the river for the wheat crop, of which 60,000 bushels were brought and stored during the next fall and winter. In the spring of 1876 two side-wheel steamboats arrived at Riverside, laden with lumber, and took out the wheat in store and a large amount from Redwood and private parties. To warehouse men, and to Daniels & Son, who had opened a general store and built a hotel, the transportation scheme seemed solved, but it proved only a case of inflated hopes. In a few days it was learned that the boats were stranded on a sandbar at the mouth of the Blue Earth river, and the parties who shipped the wheat were called on to furnish sacks and men to transfer the grain to the railroad. This practically put an end to the Riverside and steamboat transportation scheme. The warehouse and hotel were removed to Redwood Falls and used in building an elevator and hotel there.

Capt. Leroy Newton made a further effort to utilize the river. He took a large barge and rigged a wheel at the stern, which was propelled by an ordinary eight-horse thresher power. This, however, proved unsuccessful, though it was of some help to reach New Ulm, which was the end of his run.

In 1876, owing to high water in the spring, the Ida Fulton,

and Wayman X came up the river; and ten years later one trip was made by the Alvira. For another ten years no steamboat was seen on the Minnesota until, taking advantage of a freshet in April, 1897, Captain E. W. Durant of Stillwater, ran his boat, the Henrietta, a stern-wheel vessel 170 feet long with forty state-rooms, on an excursion to Henderson, St. Peter and Mankato. (Compiled from articles in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.)

## CHAPTER XX.

### HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

The roads of Redwood county have exerted an important economic and social influence upon its destinies. Along the lines of the roads indicated in the government survey, the pioneers settled, and the existence of the military roads constructed before the Massacre was a powerful factor in the motives which caused many of the pioneers after the Massacre to settle here rather than elsewhere,

The first road in Redwood county was the old Military road, connecting Ft. Ridgely with the two Indian agencies. From Ft. Ridgely this road ran north of the Minnesota until reaching the ferry at the Lower Agency. There it crossed the river, and ascending the steep bank, reached the location of the principal buildings of the Lower Agency in which is now Sherman township, in Redwood county. Thence it followed the general course of the Minnesota river to the Upper Agency on the Yellow Medicine. In places, this road was graded by the government. For the most part, however, it consisted of two wagon-ruts, which in time were worn deep into the prairie sod.

North of the Minnesota, and also following the general course of that stream, was the Military road connecting Ft. Ridgely with Ft. Abercombie. To the eastward, Ft. Ridgely was connected with St. Peter and Henderson. From St. Peter and Henderson, roads led in various directions. Thus road communication was early established between Redwood county and the important settlements of the Territory.

The next important road in this region, followed in this county, the course of the Cottonwood. It was termed Col. William Nobles' Wagon Road from Ft. Ridgely to the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains. The road was constructed in 1856-1857 by the United States Government under the direction of Albert H. Campbell, who bore the title of "General Superintendent of Pacific Wagon Roads," but the field work was in charge of Col. William H.



Nobles. For two years Col. Nobles had a permanent camp at the "Crossing of the Cottonwood" in Lyon county, east of Redwood county, and there spent two winters.

In his report to the Secretary of the Interior, Jan. 18, 1858, Col. Nobles says: "I have located and built a good wagon road from Ft. Ridgely to the Missouri river, in latitude 43 degrees, 47 minutes, between Bijou hill and 'Fort Lookout.'

"The road has been selected and made with a view to accommodate the emigrant, by having a pass through a good country, and in the vicinity of wood and water; and also, with these valuable considerations always in sight, I have been able to complete the road in almost a direct line from Fort Ridgely to the terminus of the Missouri river . . . The rivers on the road to be crossed are North Branch of the Cottonwood river (Sleepy Eye creek), Cottonwood river twice, Redwood river, Medary creek, Big Sioux river, Perrine creek, Riviere du Jacques or James river, besides a number of small creeks.

"On the Cottonwood, I have constructed a rough bridge, adapted to the present travel, but it is important that this river should be well bridged at both of the crossings."

Albert H. Campbell in his report to the secretary of the Interior dated Feb. 19, 1859, says:

"This road was completed only as far as the Missouri river, 254 miles, some time in the fall of 1857, in consequence of the insufficiency of the appropriation.

"The general location of this road is as follows: Beginning at the ferry on the Minnesota river, which is 150 feet wide at this place, opposite Ft. Ridgely. The general course of the road is southwestwardly, passing through a marshy region a few miles south of Limping Devil's lake to the north fork of the Cottonwood (Sleepy Eye creek), a distance of about seventeen miles, thence to the Cottonwood river, over a rolling country, with lakes and marshes, about one and a half miles below the mouth of the Plum creek, distance about nineteen miles. From this point the road continues across Plum creek, and three good watering places, to the crossing of the Cottonwood at Big Wood, about eighteen and a half miles. Thence . . . to the Big Sioux river . . . This road, as far as built, is remarkably direct and is believed, from the description of the country through which it passes, to be the best location which could have been made, securing a plentiful supply of water, grass and timber."

The crossing of the North fork of the Cottonwood (Sleepy Eye creek) and one of the crossings of the Cottonwood, were in this county. The route crossed in this county, Brookville, Sundown, Charlestown, Lamberton, North Hero and Springdale township. In Brookville, a branch extended north, passing through Morgan to the Lower Agency in Sherman township.

In the late fifties, when settlers pushed out to the Lake Shetek country (in the northeast part of Murray county, and a few miles southwest of Redwood county) they came over the Nobles road to North Hero township, and then switched off, and proceeded southwest along the general course of Plum creek. This route is said to have been taken because water was more easily obtained.

In 1855, Aaron Myers and family established themselves in section 31, Amiret township (township 110-40), some six miles west of the present western boundary of Redwood county. In 1857, Mr. Myers sent one of his men, John Renniker, with his oxen and a wagon, to New Ulm for supplies. Renniker, who had previously lost his position with the Dakota Land Co. (this company in 1857 had platted a village called Saratoga in section 1, Custer township—township 109, range 41—seven miles west of the present Redwood county line, and left Renniker in charge) for selling intoxicants to the Indians, bought a ten gallon cask of whiskey on his own account at New Ulm and started home. John Campbell, a half breed, followed after with a party of seven Sioux warriors, overtook him in North Hero township, near where Col. Noble's wagon road crossed Plum creek, and murdered him, after which they took his goods. Charles Hammer (Swede Charlie), Hoel Parmle and Andrew Koch, friends of the murdered man, found his body, carried it to Saratoga, and buried it on the ridge north of Mr. Myers' house in Amiret township.

Sometime before the Massacre, John F. Burns and Daniel Burns settled in the walnut grove that has given its name to the village of Walnut Grove. They belonged to the Lake Shetek colony, but by fleeing saved their lives at the beginning of the Indian Outbreak.

In 1861, a route was laid out from New Ulm to Lake Shetek, which crossed Redwood county south of the Nobles road, and branched to the southwest two miles east of Walnut Grove.

On the route between New Ulm and Lake Shetek, Charles Zierke, commonly known as "Dutch Charlie" lived near the point where Dutch Charlie creek enters the Cottonwood, in Charlestown township. He was fleeing toward New Ulm with his family at the opening of the Outbreak, when he was overtaken by the Indians. He managed to escape, reached New Ulm, organized a posse and rescued his family.

The third road projected by the government, followed the general course of the Redwood river through this county. It is mentioned in the government survey, and appears on some of the early maps of the land office, though many of the early settlers declare that nothing was known of it in the days of the early settlement. The route started at the road connecting the two agencies, and extended westward through Redwood Falls, Sheridan, Vesta and Underwood townships.

The earliest settlers after the Massacre reached Redwood county in various ways. Some came by boat. For the most part, however, they came with horses or oxen. Many struck out boldly over the unbroken prairie. There were, however, several regularly established routes of travel. Many who came to St. Paul or Minneapolis followed the Minnesota river to St. Peter. From there they struck out across Nicollet county, skirting south of the lakes, stopping three miles south of what is now Nicollet station, crossing the Redstone ferry below New Ulm and thus reaching that city. From there they reached Redwood Falls by following the old road by way of Golden Gate and Lone Tree Lake. Others coming from St. Peter did not cross the Redstone ferry at New Ulm, but kept along the north side of the river to Ft. Ridgely. From there they could cross the Minnesota at the ferry at that place, at the Martell ferry at the Lower Agency or else went to Beaver Falls and crossed at the Wilcox ferry near the old townsite of Riverside and the present village of North Redwood. Later a ferry was operated at Vicksburg, which was across the river from the northwest corner of Delhi township. Some early settlers reached Ft. Ridgely by way of Henderson, taking the old government trail from that place.

Many of the early settlers did not go to St. Paul, but came up across the prairies to Waseca and then to Mankato or St. Peter. From Mankato the trip could be made on either side of the river. However, in 1872 when the Winona and St. Peter Railroad was built through the southern part of Redwood county, most of the pioneers began coming to New Ulm or Sleepy Eye by railroad and in 1878 the railroad was built to Redwood Falls itself.

Much of the attention of the county commissioners since the first organization of the county has been devoted to the subject of roads. The earliest settlement being at Redwood Falls, it was natural that the first road action taken should concern the roads connecting Redwood Falls with Ft. Ridgely and New Ulm, and as there were quite a few settlers in Yellow Medicine county, who were then included in Redwood county, and as Swedes Forest began soon to be settled, it was also natural that the next action of the board should concern the roads connecting Redwood Falls with those points. As settlements sprang up in Lyon county, action was taken in regard to a road along the line of the Redwood river. The earliest roads laid out by the commissioners followed, for the most part, routes previously selected by the government in agency days. In the southern part of the county two east and west roads or trails already existed. As the settlements began to grow along the Cottonwood region, the need of roads connecting the northern and southern parts of the county was seen, and roads were laid out from Redwood Falls to Springfield, and from Swedes Forest to Lamberton. Still later, a road

was projected from Walnut Creek to Redwood Falls. Thus was the nucleus of a county road system inaugurated.

The first action regarding good roads was taken by the county commissioners at their first meeting, April 19, 1865, when Col. Sam McPhail was appointed road supervisor for the county, and the legislative grant for a state road from New Ulm via Redwood Falls and Yellow Medicine to the Whetstone river was accepted.

On April 20, 1866, the county commissioners declared that a public highway existed eastward from Redwood Falls along the township line between what are now Honor and Paxton townships to the southeast corner of Section 34 in what is now Honor township. From that point George Johnston, L. C. D. Brandt, and the county surveyor were to locate a road north to the Minnesota river, while beginning at that point also John McMillan, Cyrus D. Chapman, and the county surveyor were to locate and survey the road eastward to the Lower Agency ferry. The street between blocks 16 and 17 (original plat), Redwood Falls north to the saw mill, sixty feet wide was declared a public highway. Samuel M. Thompson, Jacob Tippery and the county surveyor were ordered to locate a road from the village of Redwood Falls by the most feasible route to intersect the old military road in the direction of the Yellow Medicine Agency.

Road petition No. 1 was presented to the county commissioners Sept. 4, 1866. David P. Lister and Henry Pratt were appointed to view the road and report. This road was to leave the military road at the house of George Olds, pass the houses of Benjamin Sanders, John Portner, Henry Pratt and the lime kiln and rejoin the military road at the Big Spring. The purpose of this road was to connect the people living in the bottoms with the military road.

Sept. 5, 1866, a road was ordered to commence at the old lime kiln at the Minnesota bottoms and running westward along the Yellow Medicine bottoms to section 31, township 115, range 38, at the old crossing of the Yellow Medicine, thence westward to the state line. I. G. Parks and John Winter were appointed to locate the road. Jan. 1, 1867, that part of this road which extended from the lime kiln to the crossing and the road was ordered surveyed from Redwood Falls on or near the line of the old military road to where that road crossed the Yellow Medicine river and thence west to the state line. David Doncaster of Yellow Medicine and Samuel M. Thompson of Redwood Falls were appointed to locate the road.

On Nov. 16, 1869, the board of county commissioners heard the petition to discontinue a part of what was termed the county road running between sections 34, town 113, range 35, and the ferry at the lower Sioux Agency; that is, the part of the road which passes over sections 7 and 8 in town 112, range 34. This

meant that the ferry at the Lower Sioux Agency was being abandoned and one a mile or two up the river substituted. D. O. King and O. C. Martin were appointed to view the road and report. On Jan. 4, 1870, D. O. King and O. C. Martin reported favorably on the change. On May 25, 1870, the board ordered the old road discontinued and the new one laid out. On July 28, 1874, a petition was read for a change in the road leading from Redwood Falls to the Lower Sioux Agency. David Tibbetts and W. H. Hawk were appointed to view the road and reported at the next meeting. The committee reported favorably as to the change in the road and it was ordered laid out according to the report. On July 23, 1877, a bridge was ordered laid out according to the report. On July 23, 1877, a bridge was ordered built over Crow Creek where the county road crosses on section 35, town 113, range 35. The sum of \$50 was appropriated for this purpose.

On May 19, 1871 a bill was read before the board of county commissioners for laying a state road from Redwood Falls west to the state line. It was rejected.

On Sept. 6, 1871, the petition for a county road from Redwood Falls via T. W. Caster's to Lyon county was granted. Caster at that time lived on the line between section 19, Underwood township, this county, and section 24, Stanley township, Lyon county. This road was therefore to follow the south bank of the Redwood river.

On May 19, 1871, the board of commissioners appropriated \$75 for repairing a part of the stage road from Redwood Falls to New Ulm, provided that Redwood Falls appropriate \$50 for the same purpose. On Jan. 5, 1876, \$200 was appropriated to be expended in grading the hill north of Wabasha creek, commonly called "Wabasha Hill."

On Nov. 3, 1871, the county commissioners appropriated \$50 for repairing and completing the approaches to the county bridge over the Redwood River, provided that Redwood Falls also paid \$25 for the same purpose. On June 15, 1872, Harvey Wingett was directed to oversee the work of repairing the county bridge across the Redwood river.

On May 3, 1872, a petition was read before the board for a new county road from Redwood Falls via Swedes Forest to intersect the Yellow Medicine road on the western boundary of the county. Harvey Wingett and D. Tibbitts were appointed to view the road and report at the next meeting of the board of commissioners.

On June 4, 1872, the board of county commissioners appropriated \$60 to repair county road No. 2 near the residence of G. N. Carter, provided that the town of Redwood Falls appropriate \$60 for the same purpose. On June 14, 1872, on motion, the board amended the resolution of June 4, and released the

town of Redwood Falls from her appropriation to this county road.

On Sept. 2, 1873, a petition was read for the change of the county road over sections 24, 25, 26, in the town of Sheridan. It was laid over till the next meeting, because it was necessary for D. Tibbetts and Jacob J. Light to examine the advisability of such a change. In the meeting of Sept. 16, 1873, the committee reported favorably and the change was made.

On petition, Nov. 21, 1873, a new county road from Redwood Falls to the south side of the county through the townships of Redwood Falls, New Avon, Willow Lake, Sundown, in the direction of Bevins Station in Brown county, the board appointed Jacob J. Light and D. Tibbetts to view the road and report at the next session. On March 12, 1874, the petition was granted and the road laid out accordingly. Fifty dollars was appropriated to one person for damages to her land, caused by the making of this road. Some money was also appropriated for building bridges on the above road. On Jan. 2, 1877, the petition was granted for grading the road through the "Big Slough" on section 28 in New Avon.

On March 19, 1879, a sum of \$30 was appropriated to be expended on the county road in section 13, town 111, range 37 (Vail township).

On July 28, 1874, a petition was read for a road beginning at Redwood Falls and running straight west to the county line. It was laid over till the next meeting and a committee appointed to view the same. The committee reporting favorably, the road is ordered laid out on Oct. 9, 1874. On March 10, 1875, a petition was read before the board to change a part of this county road. A. M. Cook and D. Tibbetts were appointed to view said road and report at a later session of the board of commissioners. On May 13, 1875, the road was changed between the center of section 10 and the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section 11, town 112, range 36.

A petition for a new county road running from the south line of the southwest corner of section 34, town 109, range 37 (Lamberton), thence north to the intersection with the Yellow Medicine road, was read before the board on May 13, 1875. W. H. Hawk and D. Tibbetts were appointed to view the road and to report at a later meeting of the board of commissioners. On July 26, 1875, the petition was granted and the road was ordered to be laid out. No damages were paid to the owners of the land.

On May 13, 1875, a petition was read before the board of county commissioners for a new county road running from the village of Redwood Falls southeasterly past Three Lakes, and to intersect the county road at the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of section 24, town 110, range 35. A committee

was appointed to view the advisability of the road and report. On July 26, 1875, this was granted and the road was declared a public highway.

On Sept. 20, 1876, a petition was read before the board for building a road from Walnut Grove to Redwood Falls. L. Bedall and the county surveyor were appointed to view the road and report later.

On Jan. 3, 1878, a petition, asking for a change in the county road from Swedes Forest to Lamberton, was granted. Mathias Keller and D. B. Whitmore were appointed a committee to make the change as asked for in the petition.

When the state atlas was issued in 1874, seven roads extended from Redwood Falls. The Beaver Falls road extended through what is now Honner township, cutting across sections 31 and 29, and crossing the river in the western part of section 21. A short branch of this road extended from the house of J. S. G. Honner west to the Redwood, and southeast through sections 29, 32 and 33. The Yellow Medicine road crossed sections 36, 26, 23, 15, 16, 9, 8, 5 and 6, in what is now Kintire; crossed section 36, in Swedes Forest township, passed between the school-house and the Swedes Forest postoffice at the corner of sections 25, 26, 35 and 36, Swedes Forest, passed west on the section line between 26 and 35, 27 and 34, 28 and 35, 29 and 32, 30 and 31, and angled northwest across section 30, past the Boiling Spring into Yellow Medicine county. A short road extended from Redwood Falls to the west line of what is now Redwood Falls township, crossing sections 2, 3, 4, 9, 8 and 7, Redwood Falls township, just north of the Redwood river. The road south of the Redwood river to the western boundary of the county at the west edge of what is now Underwood township, crossed sections 1, 12, 11, 10, 9, 16, 17 and 19, in what is now Redwood Falls township; sections 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 in what is now Sheridan; sections 25, 23, 22, 21, 20 and 19, in what is now Vesta township; and sections 24, 23, 22, 21, 20 and 19, in what is now Underwood. Ceresco postoffice was on this road in section 20, Underwood. The Springfield road crossed sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25 and 36 in what is now Redwood Falls; sections 1, 12, New Avon, followed the section line between 11 and 12, 13 and 14, 13 and 24, crossed 24 and 25, New Avon; followed the present town line between New Avon and Three Lakes, Willow Lake and Sundown, from section 25, New Avon, to section 12, Willow Lake, where it crossed the Sleepy Eye creek; crossed sections 7, 8, 17, 16, 15 and 14, south of the Sleepy Eye in Sundown township, ran along the section line between sections 14 and 23, and then extended south between sections 23 and 24, 26 and 25, 35 and 36 to the south edge of Sundown and the south boundary of the county. The present Morton road extended due east from Redwood Falls to



the Minnesota river, on the township line between the present towns of Honner and Paxton. The New Ulm road extended from Redwood Falls due east for seven miles on a line a mile south of the north line of Paxton, and on the line between sections 6 and 7, Sherman. At the agency it turned southeast across sections 8, 9, 16, 15 and 22, to Wabasha creek, thus following the present agency road from Redwood Falls to Wabasha creek. There it angled across sections 22, 23, 25 and 26, to the east line of the county and the east edge of Sherman township. The agency branch of Col. Nobles' road left the agency road in section 16, Sherman, crossed sections 22, 27 and 34 in Sherman; sections 3, 10, 15, 22, 27 and 34 in Morgan; and sections 3, 10, 15 and 22 in Brookville, connecting with Nobles' road in section 22, Brookville. From section 27, Morgan, southward, the course was a winding one. Col. Nobles' wagon road entered the county at the east edge of section 24, Brookville. It left Brookville between sections 19 and 30, and entered Sundown between sections 24 and 25, crossing Sleepy Eye creek in section 24. It left Sundown at the southwest corner of that town and entered the northeast corner of Charlestown. It left Charlestown a little north of the line between sections 7 and 18 and entered Lamberton a little north of the line between sections 12 and 13. It crossed the Cottonwood in section 7, Lamberton, and left the township in that section. It entered North Hero township in section 12, crossed Plume creek near the corner of sections 4, 5, 8 and 9, leaving the township on the section line between sections 6 and 7. It entered Springdale on the section line between sections 1 and 12, and left the township and the county in section 6. One branch of the New Ulm-Lake Shetek-Lyon county road, entered Charlestown and the county in section 13, and joined the other branch in section 20. The other branch entered Charlestown and the county in section 36, following the north bank of the Cottonwood to section 19, where it crossed the river. It entered Lamberton township in section 24. At Lamberton village it turned south a short distance; thence to the western boundary of the county through North Hero and Springdale, on the section line, two miles north of the southern county line. At the corner of sections 20, 21, 28 and 29, North Hero, a branch angled southwest across sections 29 to 31, to the corner of Redwood, Murray and Cottonwood counties, and thence to Lake Shetek.

Gradually, town and county roads extended to all parts of the county.

Rude bridges were constructed along the Government roads before the massacre. The first appropriations made for bridges by the county commissioners Sept. 8 and 9, 1870, when \$50 was appropriated for building a bridge over Wabasha creek, and \$25 each for building bridges over Ramsey and Rice creeks.

Bridge building at Redwood Falls was inaugurated when the legislature of 1871 passed an act appropriating \$5,000 for the construction of a Howe truss bridge across the Redwood river at the dalles. This bridge was entirely of wood. The bill was introduced by Hon. J. S. G. Honner, representative, and was passed only after a hard fight. The amount was the first considerable sum appropriated from the internal improvement fund created by the 5 per cent given to the state in sales of government lands.

March 16, 1871, the appropriation having been made available, a committee consisting of Robert Watson, D. L. Bigham, E. A. Chandler and A. M. Cook, was appointed to inspect the Redwood river with a view to determining the most suitable location for a bridge. The location at the foot of Third street was decided upon, and the contract let May 19, 1871. Later the bridge was several times repaired and renewed. Still later it was moved to the present location, where in time it was replaced by the permanent cement bridge which now ornaments the village.

An appropriation for bridging Crow creek was made Jan. 6, 1874, and for bridging Plum creek, July 27, 1874.

Other appropriations were also made from time to time.

In 1875, the state having appropriated \$600 for a bridge over the Cottonwood, the commissioners on May 13, 1875, appointed a committee to select the site. The point selected was the section line between sections 14 and 15, Lamberton township. The contract was let July 10, 1875.

An appropriation was made Jan. 5, 1876, for a bridge over High Water (Dutch Charlie) creek; and on Jan. 2, 1877, for a bridge over Sleepy Eye creek, on the Lamberton-Redwood Falls road.

All the creeks and rivers of the county are now well bridged, as is also the Minnesota river between this county and Renville county.

The Dunn law having been passed, the county commissioners were petitioned for the construction of numerous roads under its provisions, the first Dunn roads in this county being inaugurated in the fall of 1911. Since then, by following a systematic plan of procedure the present splendid system of Redwood county roads has been made possible.

The commissioners aim to have three north and south state roads, and three east and west state roads through the county, and in addition to this, to connect all the villages with these six principal thoroughfares.

State Road No. 1 extends from the Morton bridge westward, passing through Redwood Falls and Vesta, and leaving the county in the direction of Marshall, on the township line between Underwood and Westline. From the Morton bridge, this road runs

south into section 1, Paxton, about half a mile. Thence it runs northwest in sections 1 and 2 until striking the township line between Honner and Paxton. Thence it runs westward on the north line of Paxton, Redwood Falls, Sheridan and Vesta, and the south line of Honner, Delhi, Kintire and Yellow Medicine county. On the north line of Vesta township, between sections 3 and 4 it turns southward, and runs on the section line to Vesta village. It leaves Vesta midway between the north and south line of section 16, and runs due west to the western line of section 15, Underwood. Thence it runs due south on the section line to the corner of sections 21, 22, 28 and 27; thence a mile west between sections 21 and 28, thence due south between sections 28 and 29, 32 and 33, to the township line between Underwood and Westline, and thence west on the township line to the west line of the county. This road will be completed before snowfall in 1916.

State Road No. 2, exactly divides Morgan township, extending from the middle of the south line of Sherman to the middle of the north line of Brookville, and thence extending one mile west on the township line between section 33, Morgan, and section 4, Brookville. It passes through Morgan village. The road is completed.

State Road No. 3 extends from the village of Morgan westward to the west line of Three Lakes township, midway between the north and south lines of the townships. This road, in time, will be extended westward through New Avon, Vail, Granite Rock and Westline townships, to the western line of the county, thus connecting the villages of Morgan, Wabasso, Lucan and Milroy.

State Road No. 4, is under construction from the east boundary of Willow Lake, due westward eight miles on a line midway between the north and south boundaries of the township to the corner of sections 14, 15, 22 and 23, in Waterbury township.

State Road No. 5, enters the county on the eastern line of Charlestown township, midway between the north and south lines of the county, and extends westward to the western boundary of the township. Thence it runs south half a mile on the line between section 19, Charlestown, and section 24, Lamberton. Thence it angles northwest in sections 24 and 23, Lamberton, to Lamberton village. From Lamberton village it runs westward, midway between the north and south lines of sections 21, 20 and 19. Thence it extends south half a mile on the line between section 19, Lamberton, and section 24, North Hero. Thence it extends westward across North Hero and Springdale, two miles north of the county line, to the western boundary of the county and the west line of Springdale. It passed through the villages of Lamberton, Revere and Walnut Grove. This road, the Springfield-Tracy road, was built under the Elwell law as State Rural High-

way, No. 54, but will be maintained as State Road No. 5 under the Dunn law.

State Road No. 6 starts at the northeast corner of Sheridan and the northwest corner of Redwood Falls, and extends southward on the line dividing the townships. At the southeast corner of Sheridan and the southwest corner of Redwood Falls, it turns west a mile on the line between Sheridan and Vail. Thence it runs south, a mile west of the east line of Vail, to Wabasso village. Thence it turns westward a mile across section 23. Thence it runs southward, two miles west of the east line of Vail, Waterbury and Lamberton to the south line of Lamberton and the south boundary of the county. It passes through Lamberton and Wabasso village. The road is completed.

State Road No. 7 starts on the south line of Kintire township, midway between the east and west line of section 32, and runs north the whole length of the township, one and a half miles east from the west line of the township and the west line of the county. On the north line of section 5, Kintire, and the south line of section 32, Swedes Forest, it turns west one-half mile, and runs north the whole length of the township to the Minnesota river, extending just a mile east from the west line of Swedes Forest and the west line of the county. The road will be completed in 1916. It passes through Belview village.

State Road No. 8 starts on the north line of Westline township, between sections 4 and 5, and runs due south two miles east of the west line of Westline township, some two miles, to Milroy village. The road will be completed in 1916.

State Road No. 9 connects Morgan and Redwood Falls. From Redwood Falls it extends south on the township line between Redwood Falls and Paxton, to the southwest corner of section 7, Paxton. It extends due east a mile on the south line of section 7, Paxton, and then follows the diagonal course of the railroad southeast, crossing to the east side of the railroad just south of Gilfillan.

State Road No. 10 starts at the northeast corner of section 6, and the northwest corner of section 5, Sheridan township, and runs due south, a mile east of the township line between Sheridan and Vesta, to Seaforth village. This road will be completed in 1916.

Four more roads will probably be constructed in 1917. One will start at the northeast corner of section 3, and the northwest corner of section 2, on the north line of New Avon township, and run due south, two miles west of the east line of New Avon and Willow Lake, to the corner of sections 14, 15, 22 and 23, Willow Lake. Thence it will run east a mile on the line between sections 14 and 23, and thence due south to Sanborn, on a line a mile west of the east line of Willow Lake and Charlestown.

Another will connect Delhi and Belview, and another will start at Clements and run due south to the county line, midway between the east and west lines of Three Lakes and Sundown. Another will start on the north line of Brookville township, and run south on a line midway between the east and west lines of the township, to the very center of the township. There it will turn east a mile, and thence turn due south to the township and county line, running two miles west of the east line of the township and county.

Of the Elwell roads in the county, State Rural Highways Nos. 22 and 54 (will be state road No. 5) are completed. State Rural Highways No. 50, No. 74 and No. 93, will be completed in 1916.

State Rural Highway No. 22, extends south from Redwood Falls, a mile west of the east line of Redwood Falls township, to the corner of sections 23, 24, 25 and 26. Thence it runs west a mile, and thence south, two miles west of the east line of Redwood Falls township to the township line between Redwood Falls and New Avon township.

State Rural Highway No. 50 starts at the corner of sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, Paxton township, runs south a mile between sections 17 and 18, thence east a half a mile between sections 17 and 20; thence south a half a mile and east a half a mile in section 20, thence south on a line two miles east of the west line of Paxton township, to the line between Paxton and Three Lakes townships.

State Road No. 7 starts on the south line of Kintire township, midway between the east and west line of section 32, and runs north the whole length of the township, one and a half miles east from the west line of the township and the west line of the county. On the north line of section 5, Kintire, and the south line of section 32 Swedes Forest it turns west a mile, and runs north the whole length of the township to the Minnesota river, extending just a mile east from the west line of Swedes Forest and the west line of the county. The road will be completed in 1916. It passes through Belview village.

State Rural Highway No. 74 starts at Milroy in Westline township, and runs south on a line two miles east of the west line of Westline and Gales townships, to a point on the west line of section 8, Gales township, midway between the north and south line of the section. Thence it runs west through section 8.

State Rural Highway No. 93 extends straight south from Vesta through Lucan to the corner of sections 21, 22, 27 and 28, North Hero township, running midway between the east and west lines of Vesta, Granite Rock, Johnsonville and North Hero townships.

**Authority and References.** The Records of the Proceedings of the County Commissioners of Redwood County in the custody of the Redwood County Auditor.

The Transcripts from the Field Notes of the Original Government Surveys, in the custody of the Register of Deeds of Redwood county.

State Road Records in the custody of the auditor of Redwood county.

Personal testimony of L. P. Larson, who has been auditor of Redwood county during the period of state road building.

"Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota," A. T. Andreas, Chicago, 1874.

"Map of State Roads in Redwood County," prepared by O. L. Kipp, district engineer, Minnesota State Highway Commission.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### RAILROADS.

Redwood county is crossed by five railroads, operated by two companies, the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Co. and the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad Co.

The Winona-Tracy branch of the old Winona & St. Peter, now the Chicago & Northwestern, extends through the southern part of the county, crossing the townships of Charlestown, Lamberton, North Hero and Springdale, with stations at Sanborn, Lamberton, Revere, and Walnut Grove. Springfield in Brown county is nine miles east of Sanborn and Tracy in Lyon county is eight miles west of Walnut Grove. The line was completed a few miles west of New Ulm in June, 1872. The next sixty miles through Redwood county and on to Marshall was rapidly constructed, and the first construction train reached Marshall on Oct. 12, 1872. Service was suspended during the long hard winter of 1873, and regular service inaugurated in the spring.

The first train to run within the limits of Redwood county on regular schedule left New Ulm at 9 o'clock on the morning of April 14, 1873, made the run of eighty miles in seven hours, and arrived at Marshall at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. H. B. Gary was the conductor, and Robert McConnell, the engineer. The train was made up of engine No. 26, a baggage car, a coach, and twenty-five freight cars.

The Minnesota Valley division of the Winona & St. Peter, now the Redwood Falls-Sleepy Eye branch of the Chicago & Northwestern, was constructed in 1878. Lumber was brought to Redwood Falls by rail as early as July, 1878, and on Aug. 1, a regular passenger service was inaugurated with W. C. Tyler as first station agent. He kept his office in a box car, while the station was being erected. This line crossed Morgan and Maxton townships

diagonally and has stations in this county at Morgan, Gilfillan and Redwood Falls. Redwood Falls is the end of the line. Evan, in Brown county, is seven miles from Morgan.

The county issued bonds of \$50,000 for the construction of the line to Redwood Falls. A petition was presented to the county board on July 24, 1876, asking for the issuance of bonds for the construction of a railroad which was to connect Redwood Falls with New Ulm. An election called for Aug. 18, 1876, resulted in a favorable vote by the people. On Sept. 6, 1876, the board decided not to issue the bonds until the railroad should be completed to Redwood Falls. Sept. 20, 1876, an insistent demand having been made for the issuance of the bonds, a committee of D. O. King, J. M. Little and Mathias Keller, was appointed to draw up a contract with the railroad company. On Feb. 15, 1877, the committee reported. On their recommendation the bonds were issued, and placed with the Bank of St. Paul, to be paid to the railroad should the line be completed and in use by Oct. 1, 1877. The conditions were not met, and the bonds were withdrawn. On Jan. 3, 1878 the commissioners extended the time for the completion of the road to Aug. 18, 1878. The railroad was built, and the bonds duly issued.

The Evan-Marshall line of the Chicago & Northwestern was built by the Minnesota Western Railway Company. Two surveys were made, one from Morgan and one from Evan. The latter was finally selected. Track laying started at Wabasso April 21, 1902, and Marshall was reached in July of that year. The stretch from Wabasso to Evan was also rapidly completed, and the line put in operation that summer and fall.

The line extends across the central part of Redwood county, crossing Brookville, Three Lakes, New Avon, Vail, Granite Rock and Westline townships, with stations at Wayburne, Clements, Rowena, Wabasso, Lucan and Milroy. Evan in Brown county is five miles from Wayburne and Dudley in Lyon county is seven miles from Milroy.

The Sanborn-Vesta line of the Northwestern extends from Sanborn to Vesta, the tracks being in Charlestown, Willow Lake, Waterbury, Vail, Sheridan and Vesta townships, with stations at Sanborn, Wanda, Wabasso, Seaforth and Vesta. Vesta is the end of the line. Dotson, in Brown county, is eight miles from Sanborn. The road was built in the summer and fall of 1899, and the first train was run Nov. 27, 1899.

The Pacific division of the Minneapolis & St. Louis was completed to Morton in 1882, and the construction westward through Redwood county completed in 1884. It passes through Honner, Delhi and Kintire townships and touches Paxton township as well. The stations are at North Redwood, Delhi and Belview. Morton in Renville county is seven miles from North Redwood



and Echo in Yellow Medicine county is three miles from Echo.

**The Chicago & Northwestern Co.** The Winona and St. Peter Railroad Co., an outgrowth of the Transit line, of territorial days, was organized March 10, 1862, and completed its road from Winona to Rochester in 1864. Waconia was reached in 1867, Janesville in 1870, St. Peter in 1871; New Ulm in June, 1872; Marshall in November, 1872; and the western boundary of the state in 1874.

The Winona, Mankato and New Ulm Railroad Co. was organized in 1870, and a railroad was built from New Ulm to Mankato. It was afterward acquired by the Winona and St. Peter.

The earliest part of the Chicago & Northwestern system was known as the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad Co. incorporated under the laws of Illinois, Jan. 16, 1836. The real beginning of the Northwestern under its present name was when the Legislature of Wisconsin, on April 10, 1861, authorizing it to construct a railroad from Fond du Lac to the Menominee river. In October, 1864, the Penninsular Railroad was acquired, thus securing the trade of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

In 1867, the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Co. became interested in the Winona and St. Peter and in 1870, the Mississippi river was bridged at Winona. The Chicago & Northwestern acquired by purchase the Winona and St. Peter June 7, 1900; the Minnesota and Iowa on June 8, 1900; and the Minnesota Western Railway on July 16, 1902.

**The Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad Co.** The original Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Co. was a Minnesota corporation called the Minnesota Western Railroad Co., created March 3, 1853, by Chapter 66, Special Laws of 1853. In 1870, by authority of the State Legislature, the name was changed to the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Co. This company, authorized by the legislatures of both Minnesota and Iowa, absorbed the Minneapolis and Duluth, organized in April, 1871; the Minnesota and Iowa Southern, created in 1878; and the Fort Dodge and Fort Ridgely, incorporated in 1876. In the summer of 1888 the company went into the hands of a receiver, and in the fall of 1894 was sold under a decree of foreclosure. In November, 1894, the company was reorganized under the name of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad Company. To preserve the corporate rights of the company in the two states, that portion of its property lying in the state of Iowa was conveyed to a committee which, in January, 1895, organized the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad and Telegraph Company of Iowa, which in February following was formerly consolidated with the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad Company under that title. The reorganization was made under the laws of the both Iowa and Minnesota, and the present company retains all the rights of the original and con-

stituent companies. On January 1, 1912, the company acquired by purchase all the railroad and connected property of the Iowa Central and Minnesota and the Dakota and Pacific Railway companies.

The main line from St. Paul westward, or what was originally called the Pacific Division, was constructed from Hopkins to Winthrop in February, 1882, and from Winthrop to Morton in November, 1882. Morton remained the terminal of the line for two years and in 1884 the line was continued to Watertown. The construction work of the line through this part of the state was done by the Wisconsin, Minnesota and Western Construction Co.

**Acknowledgment.** Thanks are due to Thomas Yapp and H. B. Warren, assistant secretary and statistician, respectively, of the State Railway and Warehouse Commission, for assistance in the preparation of this chapter.

**References.** Railroads in Minnesota are discussed at length in many of the standard Histories of Minnesota, and the story of the building of various branches is treated in several county histories. Interesting articles on the subject appear in the published "Collections" of the Minnesota Historical Society. Valuable material regarding the early railroads of the state; the "Five Million Dollar Loan"; the repudiation of railroad bonds by the state and the final settlement of the matter; together with a detailed history of the Winona & St. Peter; are to be found in the "History of Winona County, Minnesota, 1913, by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge.

**Authority.** Records of the State Railway and Warehouse Commission.

"Minnesota in Three Centuries," by Return I. Holcombe.

Files of cotemporary newspapers.

Personal testimony of residents.

Outline Map of Redwood County prepared by A. D. McRae.

History of Lyon County, by Arthur P. Rose, 1912.

## CHAPTER XXII

### EDUCATION

The social and economic development of a community is most admirably reflected in its schools. The first school in Redwood county (exclusive of the agency schools) was taught in a living room in a log cabin at Redwood Falls, protected from the Indians by a stockade and a patrol of soldiers. The early schools were held in the same kind of structures as those in which their pupils lived. Some were in granaries, some in log cabins, some in sod houses, and one or two in a brush or straw lean-to. The furniture

in the pioneer schools was of a nondescript variety. Some schools had a bench running around three sides of the room, some had a few rough boards for tables. In the first school taught in the stockade, household furniture from the various cabins was used. In some early schools the children brought their chairs to school in the morning and took them back home at night. Some of the schools had fire places, some had a crude stove. The first text books were usually of a miscellaneous variety which the families had brought with them from older communities. The county was new, the pioneers were for the most part poor, they were compelled to make the best of circumstances as they found them, and the children likewise, in their schooling, were provided with such make-shifts as were available.

As the people prospered, the schoolhouses were improved, though it must be admitted, that the school facilities did not in all instances keep pace with the developments along other lines, for in some neighborhoods the school house was the last building to be improved, and remained a crude, box like structure, a blot on the landscape, long after the farms were provided with magnificent barns and comfortable homes.

It has been the settled policy of the United States since the Republic was formed, to assist new territories and states by grants of land for common schools, a university, public buildings and other purposes. The manner of disposing of the lands was left with the people of the several states. The act of Congress, authorizing a territorial government for Minnesota, was approved March 3, 1849. Among other things, it provided that, when the lands in the territory should be surveyed, sections 16 and 36 in each township were to be reserved for the purpose of schools in the territory or state which would follow.

The first legislative assembly of Minnesota enacted in 1849 a law for the support of common schools. A partial organization of the system was effected the following year, and in 1851 Rev. E. D. Neill was appointed territorial superintendent of common schools.

But the early settlement of Minnesota was slow, so that in 1854 there were only five or six school districts in the territory, and not more than a half dozen log school houses, of very little value, with no organized public school system. There was at that time no public school fund.

In 1861 Governor Alexander Ramsey delivered a remarkable address to the legislature, in which he stated that he believed in fifty years from that time the three million acres of school land, when sold, would yield an annual revenue which would raise the Minnesota educational system above the level of that of any state in the Union. He spoke with almost prophetic foresight for the half century period has just passed and the state school fund

alone, in actual, interest-bearing securities, amounts to \$21,500,000, and there are more than a million acres of school land still unsold.

The school system of the state was six years old when Colonel McPhail and his little band of associates located at Redwood Falls. Previous to this settlement, the only schools that had been conducted in Redwood county were the schools at the Lower Agency, where the government, in 1854, started its attempt to make white men of the Sioux Indians.

A number of children living in the stockade at Redwood Falls, the only white children in the county, were taught, during the winter of 1864-65 by Julia A. Williams, who thus became the pioneer schoolteacher of the county.

The school system of Redwood county as an organized entity dates from the first meeting of the county commissioners, April 19, 1865, when a school district was created consisting of the present townships of Paxton, Honner and Redwood Falls.

In April, 1866, District No. 1 was created, with a schoolhouse at Redwood Falls. Edward March, the county auditor, was appointed school examiner Sept. 12, 1865, his compensation to be \$2 a day for time actually spent at his examining duties.

Redwood county received from the state fund, in 1867, \$85 for school purposes. In addition, \$21.79 was raised for the county school fund, and \$35.47 from the district school fund, making a total of \$142.76 available that year for operating the schools of the county. Of this, District 1 received \$46.51 for the spring term and \$36.03 for the fall term, making a total of \$82.54 for the year. District 2 received \$10.11 for the spring term and \$9.85 for the fall term, making a total of \$19.96. District 3 received \$14.43 for the spring term and \$25.72 for the fall term, making a total of \$40.15.

In 1868 the majority of the teachers of the county, and indeed of the state, were poorly trained and ill qualified to teach. For the most part they were boys and girls who wished to work for a few months in the year, and who found employment at teaching at a season of the year when there was no other employment. Teaching was not regarded as a trained profession, but an occupation in which anyone could engage who had a better education than the prospective pupils. Sometimes the subjects taught were as new to the teacher as to the pupil, the teacher keeping one lesson ahead of the pupil by studying at night.

The average wage per month in Redwood county for a male teacher was \$33 and for a female teacher \$12. There were scattering schools here and there. In only one school that winter were there two teachers.

In 1869 eight districts had been organized and 169 pupils were enrolled. E. A. Chandler, county superintendent, in his report for 1870 says, "Redwood county is still in its infancy concerning

school matters but it has a healthy constitution and a rapid growth is looked forward to."

In 1870 the salaries were nearly double what they were in 1868. The male teachers received an average salary of \$50 a month, and the female teachers an average of \$22.50 a month.

In 1871 Redwood county paid \$880.80 as teachers' wages. Great improvements were being made in the school buildings, and in the system and the teachers hired were better qualified and better paid.

In 1872 the increase in teachers' wages corresponded with the increase in pupils and school buildings, when \$1,139.77 was paid as teachers' wages. The ratio of female teachers to male was steadily on the increase in Minnesota. In 1874 almost \$3,000 was paid as teachers' wages in Redwood county.

In 1875 W. B. Herriott, county superintendent, declared that the condition of the schools, although sadly in need of improvement, were better than the statistics indicated. Progress was reported for the five years. In place of one school building, there were fifteen; in place of eight districts, there were twenty-seven; there were six times as many pupils. Great plans had been made, but the hard times caused by the grasshoppers greatly interfered with building and kindred work, and in some of the districts the plans were not realized.

The work accomplished during the next year, 1876, was quite satisfactory. Five new school houses were built and six new districts were laid out.

In 1877 D. L. Bigham, the county superintendent, said in his report that the schools were greatly indebted to the influence exerted on them by the State Teachers' Institute held at Redwood Falls in the spring. This was the first institute held in the county, but by an extra effort, almost every teacher was in attendance. Lectures and good instruction were given, and the result was a new life in the schools. On the whole, the schools of Redwood county made a decided advance during the year.

The question of text books was considered by the county commissioners Sept. 25, 1878, when \$164.29 was appropriated in connection with the state uniform text book scheme. Jan. 9, 1879, the sum of \$91.46 was appropriated from the county funds with which to purchase cheap state text-books, Robert Watson and Lyman Fuller being named as the purchasing committee.

R. L. Marshman, county superintendent, stated in his report in 1885 that the schools were keeping pace in growth with other worthy interests. The number of pupils had increased to 1,435 and there were fifty-two organized districts. There were forty school houses and there was not so much changing of teachers as in former years. The attendance was much better but far below what it would have been if the compulsory school law had been

enforced, which was then virtually ignored in Redwood county. The teachers' institute, as to attendance and interest was superior to those of other years. The work of the institute instructors sent by the state was excellent.

In 1886 the county superintendent's report declared that there was not so much changing of teachers as in former years; that the school officers were more liberal in compensating teachers who showed their worthiness. The teachers' institute, as to attendance and interest, was superior to those of others years. The average wages of the teachers in 1885 was: males \$39.00; females \$25.60.

In 1887 the county superintendent declared in his report that the teachers were more enthusiastic over their work and were regarding it more as a permanent work. School districts, in many instances, were awakening to the fact that more good could be accomplished by employing teachers permanently than by changing every term. Keener interest was manifested on the part of the pupils when they realized the teacher had come to stay. The common school teachers still had little more than a high school education. Few normal graduates taught in the common schools. But the teachers were better prepared and the increase in salary they demanded was seldom refused.

In 1890 the county superintendent's report showed gradual progress. Seven new buildings had been erected in the past two years and many of the old ones had been torn down and new ones erected. The school library law commenced to make its influence felt and in 1890 fourteen schools were supplied with fair sized libraries. There was less change in the teaching force than in any previous year. The work of teaching was better understood and the teachers were better qualified to fill their positions. Teachers' meetings were a great help toward unifying the work. Everywhere the teachers were encouraged to read, annually at least, one work on education. An effort was made to keep the pupils in school after they reached the age of fifteen. A common school diploma was offered to encourage them to remain and the twelve diplomas, given the previous year, were highly prized.

Compulsory education was not enforced. Mild measures were tried and some good was accomplished but less than seventy per cent of the whole number enrolled attended school the whole time. However, the law was too faulty to insure great success. Nearly all schools at that time were supplied with classification registers and the records left were very helpful to the incoming teacher.

There was less change in the teaching force in Redwood county than in any previous year. The work of teaching was much better understood. Nearly all the schools were taught by teachers who held a second grade license. Nearly all the teachers fol-

lowed as a guide the Common School Manual, which made the work more unified. In 1890 the male teachers in Redwood county were receiving an average salary of \$36 and the female teachers \$30. About \$17,000 was spent for teachers' wages in Redwood county that year.

New methods of improving the efficiency of the teachers were continually being tried. The Teachers' Institutes had proved a real help and in 1890 there was a summer school held for teachers in Redwood county. The practical school room work was taught and those who attended were greatly encouraged and strengthened.

In 1894 an excellent training school was held in Redwood county in the summer. One hundred and forty-seven earnest men and women were enrolled, and a great deal of good work was accomplished toward qualifying the teachers for their work. Nearly \$30,000 was paid to the ninety teachers who taught in Redwood county in 1894. The males received on an average of \$40 a month; the females \$33. Of the whole number engaged in teaching, all but nine had first and second grade certificates. There were examined in 1894 one hundred and forty candidates, of which sixty were rejected. Of the whole force then engaged in teaching, two were college graduates, ten were normal graduates, and thirty were high school graduates. Fifty teachers had attended a high school and twenty more had attended a normal school without completing a full course. It will be seen that the scholarship of the teachers was greatly improved.

In the report for 1895, County Superintendent S. J. Race said: "Compulsory education does not compel. Only seventy per cent of the pupils enrolled attended school regularly. Where a well qualified teacher, a live, energetic one is at work in a well supplied school room there is no trouble about attendance. The remedy lies not in more stringent laws, but in more efficient teachers."

That year \$32,000 was paid for teachers' wages, or an average of \$32 per month for males and \$30 per month for females. There were 147 candidates who applied for certificates, but only 80 secured necessary pass marks. The teaching force was gradually improving. There were more "normal girls and boys" than two years earlier, though it is true that the normal graduates were for the most part teaching in the villages, the better salaries and the longer school terms in the villages being among the inducements which kept the best qualified teachers away from the little country schools where as a matter of fact they were needed the most.

The enrollment in the summer school in 1896 in Redwood county was not as large as in 1894, but it was well organized and the teachers received a great deal of help. The teachers' reading circle proved of great aid in making the teachers better qualified.



There had been but slight change in the wage question. Where the teacher had shown broad scholarship, a disposition to work, and an interest in her work, she had been retained at an increased salary.

The teachers' wages showed an increase for 1897 when \$33,782 was paid out. There were twenty-four male and one hundred and four female teachers, at an average of \$31 per month. These averages do not include Redwood Falls and Lamberton, where the males received \$91 per month and the females \$47 per month. In 1895 it was a rare sight to find a normal graduate in the rural schools. In 1897 there were employed in Redwood county, seventeen normal school graduates, not including city and village schools, who were paid an average of \$38 per month. All the districts having such teachers, except one, were convinced that it paid, and were resolved to try the experiment again the following year.

In 1900 the county superintendent, S. J. Race, said in his report that Redwood county showed remarkable improvement in the last few years. New school houses with some beauty of structure, some sanitary measures, and something relative to heating and ventilation had been built. The "box-car" pattern was left behind. The school libraries grew steadily. The law of "Special State Aid to Rural Schools" was a wonderful stimulus to Redwood County.

Ten schools tried a simple yet efficacious plan of heating and ventilating school rooms. The method was to heat the fresh air and to distribute in the room by means of registers.

The schools having eight and nine months' sessions all paid \$35 and \$40 per month. Some paid \$45 per month, and a few \$50.

In the earliest days of Redwood county teachers were first granted their licenses to teach by the county examiner; later by examiners in county commissioners' districts, and, when the county superintendency was established, by the county superintendents. Under them, the system gradually grew in efficiency. From 1899 all teachers had been examined by the state superintendent of public institution, who issued questions upon which applicants throughout the state wrote at the same time, the manuscript being sent immediately to his office, under whose supervision certificates were issued. By this system of uniform examination, the standard for entering the teaching profession was raised, the requirements made uniform, and due credit given to those who have shown special fitness for and success in their work.

The year 1904 was one of more progress than any other for ten years. Thirty-nine teachers were normal school graduates, forty-nine were high school graduates, and seven were college graduates. In the whole county there were sixty-six teachers

who held a state first grade certificates or higher qualifications. The men received on an average \$50 per month, the women \$40 per month. All teachers with first grade certificates in rural schools received from \$45 to \$50 per month. The higher salaries paid had a tendency to put teaching on a more professional basis. The teacher with a third grade certificate or, more properly speaking, a permit, is nearly weeded out.

In 1905 and 1906 all the schools, but one, in the county had good libraries which were very helpful. The heating and ventilation questions reported a marked improvement. Twelve rural schools had furnaces and fifty-seven used a Manuel-Smith system with good results, which left twenty-eight districts which still used the stove without any means of ventilation. The teachers employed in Redwood county in 1905 held higher certificates on an average than any other county in the state.

In 1906 there was paid for teachers' salaries for rural school teachers \$38,886, who had under their charge 3,093 pupils, while the city and village teachers received in salaries \$24,682 for teaching 2,112 pupils.

July 13, 1908, the board appropriated \$75 to be spent for a Children's Agricultural Contest to be held under the supervision of the county superintendent of schools. On Jan. 5, 1909, an appropriation of \$150 was made for a Children's Industrial Contest.

H. J. Bebermeyer, county superintendent, says in his report for 1910 that in Redwood county there were 113 school districts comprising 117 separate schools. The different kinds of schools were: two high schools, six graded schools, eight semi-graded schools, one hundred and three rural schools.

The efficiency of the teachers continued yearly to improve. Teachers' meetings were held on Saturdays in the various parts of the county and these meetings were followed by one meeting for the entire county. In 1910, the percentage of teachers holding first grade certificates was from sixty to 75.

The Redwood county superintendent in his report for 1912 said that about seventy per cent of the teachers in the county held first grade certificates. During the past three years a teachers' training department had been in session in the Redwood Falls high school. Thus far all graduated from this department were also graduates from this or some other high school. Nearly all were teaching in the county and were doing excellent work. Thus these departments were supplying the need of professionally trained teachers for the rural schools.

In 1914 the average monthly wages of men teachers in the rural schools in Redwood county were \$65, and the average monthly wages of women teachers were \$51.

At the present time there are 110 districts in the county, three having recently consolidated with others so that there no longer

exists Districts Nos. 41, 91 and 93. There are now, in the county eleven graded and high school buildings, thirteen semi-graded buildings which consist of two rooms or more, seven of these being in the open country and the rest in small villages, and ninety-two one-room buildings. The high schools are at Redwood Falls, Lamberton, Belview, Sanborn, Walnut Grove and Morgan. The graded schools not giving full high school work are at Wabasso, Delhi and Wanda. The four consolidated districts are at Lamberton, Redwood Falls, Wanda and Walnut Grove, a fifth one at Delhi having voted to consolidate will be ready for work in September, 1917. The semi-graded schools are at Clements, Lucan, Milroy, Revere, Seaforth, Vesta, District No. 7 in New Avon township, District No. 19 in North Hero township, District No. 27 in Sundown township, District No. 49 in Brookville township, District No. 67 in Willow Lake township, District No. 70 in Sheridan township and District No. 78 in Waterbury township.

During the year 1915-16 there were 5,552 pupils enrolled in the schools of the county, 2,313 of which were in graded and high schools and the rest in rural and semi-graded schools. The average length of the school term was eight and one-half months, or 170 days, out of which the average days attended by each pupil was 126.9, as compared with 123 for 1914-15, 121 for 1913-14, and 119 for 1912-13. There were in 1915-16, 180 teachers in all the schools of the county, the average monthly salary in graded and high schools being \$86 and in rural and semi-graded being \$63, making an average for the county of \$75. The average monthly wages for men in the high and graded schools was \$108.50, for women \$63.50; in rural and semi-graded, for men \$69, and for women \$57.

The qualifications of the teachers employed in the rural schools are improving from year to year. At the present time all the teachers of the rural and semi-graded schools hold a first grade certificate with the exception of four who hold a complete second-grade. Out of the 122 teachers at the present time in the rural and semi-graded schools, seven are state normal school graduates, nineteen have attended a state normal school and seventy-seven are graduated from a high school normal training department, making a total of 102 having had special professional training, only three of which have had their professional work outside of the state of Minnesota. There are no men teachers in the rural schools and only three men are employed in the semi-graded, these being principals. In the high and graded schools there are fifteen men, leaving a total of 180 women teachers in the county.

One great drawback to the progress which the schools should make is the constant changing of teachers. In the school year 1915-16 there were only forty teachers who had been in the same district three years or more; forty-three who had been in the

same district two years, and one hundred and fifteen who had been in the same district only one year.

All the districts lend free text books. Every school in the county has a library, and during 1915-16, 20,835 of these were loaned for reading purposes. Every school has a bubbling drinking fountain, providing a sanitary method of furnishing water for the school children.

All the schools in 1915-16 received state aid except two, both of which have voted to fit up to meet the requirements and will make application for state aid for 1916-17.

Three things needed for an improvement in the physical surroundings of the schoolhouses of the county are: grounds fenced, trees, and concealed entrances to the outhouses. Last year there were 277 trees planted. Thirty-two districts have the grounds fenced and as many more have fences on three sides. A number of school yards are surrounded by shade trees and some have planted groves for protection on the north and west sides.

There are sixty-four of the rural schools that have furnished better facilities for the children washing their hands at school by providing a wash basin, liquid soap, and paper towels; about half of the remaining number use individual linen towels. A few schools use the family linen towels, and the rest use the dangerous, germ laden, disease spreading common towel.

The superintendents report for the year closing 1915 shows the following facts. The aggregate indebtedness of all districts was \$216,193.82; spent for teachers' salaries, \$105,105.93; spent for new schoolhouses and sites, \$20,674.62; the county as a whole received from the state for apportionment, \$28,597.26; for special state aid, \$37,227.22; and the total number of voters present at the annual meeting in the entire county was 1,545 persons.

When the state of Minnesota was organized, sections 16 and 36 of every township in the state were set aside as school property. This land has gradually been sold and the money put into a permanent state school fund. Valuable mineral has been found on much of this land, which makes the school fund limitless and inexhaustible. The interest only from this fund is used, out of which the apportionment money for each pupil attending school a certain number of days each year is paid. This amounts to about \$6, on the average, for every pupil each year. The state aid money to schools is paid out of the annual fund which is appropriated by the legislature at each session. This money is derived from taxes on all taxable property. The larger percentage of this fund is paid by the three largest cities and the large corporations of the state. There is also a one mill local tax which is collected from and paid back to each individual district. Any other tax paid is the amount that is voted by the patrons at the annual school meeting for the running expenses of their school.

The school grounds average about one acre in size. In nearly all the districts where new buildings have been erected or old ones remodeled they have provided two acres, a portion of which is used for lawn and landscape garden, some for school gardens and the rest for play grounds, many of which are equipped with teeter boards, swings, turning poles, giant strides, and other playground apparatus. Provision is also made for various games, such as croquet, tennis, basket ball and volley ball.

Redwood county, being one of the older counties of the state, has many old one-room rural schoolhouses, but these are rapidly being replaced by up-to-date modern buildings. Since 1905 there have been thirty-six new buildings erected and ten old ones remodeled. Of these new one-room buildings nearly all have provided for a full basement, two cloak rooms, a large library room and a store room. In the past three years five two-room rural schools have been erected where before one-room schools existed. These two-teacher, or semi-graded, schools have added much to the opportunities of the pupils living in the country. Most of these two-room school buildings are so constructed that the partition separating the class rooms rolls or folds up, thus providing a large auditorium for neighborhood gatherings. District 27 in Sundown township went further than this when it built its two-room school. This is a two story building with a community room, kitchen and library on the second floor. The schoolhouse has become the center of the township's social life. They have an annual township fair held there, and among other events of the year which take place at the schoolhouse is a farmers' institute.

Only twenty-two schools in the county still have double seats, while twenty-three other schools are still using some double seats, but these are rapidly being replaced by single ones. If the two schools that are planning to secure state aid for 1916-17 for the first time succeed in their efforts, every school building in the county will have an approved system of ventilation. These systems consist of steam heat and forced air ventilation, or hot air furnace and a gravity system of ventilation, or patented room heaters. A number of the latter have been in use for many years and more modern systems are gradually being installed in their place.

The oldest schoolhouse in the county is in District 9, in Morgan township, erected in 1876. The schoolhouses erected or remodeled since 1905 are: No. 1 (remodeled), No. 2, No. 4, No. 5, No. 7, No. 8, No. 13, No. 14 (remodeled), No. 19, No. 21, No. 23, No. 24, No. 27, No. 28 (two buildings), No. 30, No. 31 (one building and one remodeled), No. 33, No. 39, No. 42, No. 44, No. 47, No. 48, No. 49 (remodeled), No. 50, No. 51, No. 56 (remodeled), No. 67 (remodeled), No. 69 (remodeled), No. 70 (remodeled), No. 74 (remodeled), No. 77 (remodeled), No. 78, No. 81, No. 82, No. 86,

No. 94, No. 95, No. 97, No. 101, No. 106, No. 110, No. 111, No. 112 and No. 113.

There are two teachers in the schools of Districts 7, 15, 19, 26, 27, 49, 67, 70, 78, 104 and 108. There are three teachers in the schools of Districts 95 and 102.

During the past year there were nine districts which, at public expense, transported all or part of its pupils. Nearly half of the schools have barns on the school grounds, for the accommodation of the pupils who drive to school.

No county examinations are given in Redwood county. Promotion from the eighth grade depends upon the results of the state board examinations which are held twice a year in each township in the county. The state requirements for eighth grade graduation are rigidly enforced, no pupil being granted a diploma without four of the required state board certificates.

Nearly all the rural and semi-graded schools do something along the lines of elementary agriculture, sewing and manual training.

Redwood conducts an annual acre corn contest, an annual pig contest, a bread-making contest and a spelling contest, the winners of which represent the county at the state contests. In addition to this contest work, Redwood county has an annual township school day. On this day all of the schools of each township meet at some central schoolhouse with the school officers and patrons of the township. Half of the day is devoted to school contest work, the other half to a joint program. At noon a township picnic dinner is served. This day has grown to be the red letter day of the school year in every township. Each school puts up, at the meeting place, an exhibit of the pupils' work, thus affording the patrons an opportunity to make a comparative study of the work done in the various schools. The schools of the county have erected a school exhibit building at the county fair grounds at Redwood Falls. In this building at the time of the county fair all the schools of the county are given an opportunity to exhibit work which has been done during the previous school year. This county school exhibit affords an excellent opportunity for the patrons from the different parts of the county to study and compare the work which is being done by the schools.

Education is no longer thought to consist only of the work done in the schoolroom with the children. A broader view is being universally accepted and rapidly adopted in Redwood county. The people of various sections are forming themselves into clubs, the aim and purpose of which is general improvement of its members, together with civic and farm improvement. There were thirteen active adult club organizations, aside from churches and lodges, in the county during 1915-16. The majority of these club meetings were held at the schoolhouses.

The supervising of the rural and semi-graded schools is done by a county superintendent of schools, elected at large by the people. The graded and high schools, unless consolidated, are not directly under the supervision of the county superintendent of schools, but are supervised by local principals or city superintendents. The consolidated schools are under joint supervision of the county and city superintendent. The supervision of rural and semi-graded schools is very inadequate, as this work in Redwood county is done by one individual, the county superintendent, who, besides, performs the many other duties connected with that office. This means that there are 111 schools, most of which are at least three miles apart, left to the care and responsibility of one person. From this it will be readily seen that there can be no real supervision in these schools. The city and graded schools employ teachers with better qualifications and usually more mature than the rural and semi-graded ones. Yet each of these same high and graded schools employ a well trained superintendent who devotes his entire time and attention to his own individual school. It seems an injustice to the boys and girls who happen to live in the rural district that they should be taught, oftentimes, by immature teachers having little training, without more direct supervision than is possible under the present system. Many of the states have already adopted plans to provide for several supervisors for each county in that state. During the school year 1915-1916 the superintendent of Redwood county made 240 visits, an average of between two and three visits to each school. If some plan could be adopted whereby the rural schools could have as much supervision as the village schools, what wonders might be accomplished with the children in the country!

The parochial schools of the county are located as follows: Norwegian Lutheran, in the village of Belview, District 74; Swedish Lutheran, in the village of Belview, District 74; Norwegian Lutheran, in District 10 in Swedes Forest township; Norwegian Lutheran, in District 52 in Swedes Forest township; German Lutheran, in Section 5, Sheridan township; German Lutheran, in the village of Redwood Falls, District 1; German Lutheran, in the village of Morgan, District 56; Catholic, in the village of Morgan, District 56; Norwegian Lutheran, in section 28 of Sundown township, District 27; German Lutheran, in the village of Sanborn, District 17; German Lutheran, in the village of Wanda, District 30; German Lutheran, in section 10 in Waterbury township in the church; German Lutheran, in Willow Lake township, section 10; German Lutheran, in section 9 in Johnsonville township; German Lutheran, in the village of Vesta, District 102.

District 1. This district embraces the village of Redwood Falls, and some surrounding territory. It was originally organ-



ized in 1866, and later made an independent district. The first school was taught in the winter of 1864-65 in the stockade. Conditions gradually developed until 1882, when the first high school class was formed under Supt. F. V. Hubbard with an enrollment of sixty-four pupils. In 1884 and 1885 it became necessary to have a larger building, and the west portion of the present building was built. In 1886 the first class, consisting of five members, was graduated from the high school. In 1892 the east portion of the building was built. In 1900 there was a substantial brick building consisting of ten rooms. In 1916 the building is being remodelled and enlarged, and when opened in the fall will be the equal of any high school in any town of this size in the state. In addition to the regular high school course, courses are given in manual training, domestic science, normal training, music and agriculture.

District 2. The Crow Creek district, originally organized in 1866, is in the southern part of Honner and the north central part of Paxton townships. The schoolhouse, erected in 1911 in a grove on the banks of Crow Creek, is in the eastern part of section 4, Paxton township. The people of the district are very progressive and the school is well supported. An eight or nine-months' term has been maintained for many years.

District 3. Originally organized in 1866, is in the northern part of Vesta township. There are three schoolhouses in this district. The building in 3 East was erected in 1892 and is located in the southern part of section 11; the one in 3 West was erected in 1901 and is located in the central part of section 18; and the one in 3 North was erected in 1916 and is located in the northeast corner of section 8. There are no trees around these schoolhouses and the sites are small. The people of this district have recently awakened to the advantages of better education and now have nine months of school.

District 4. Originally organized in 1868, is in the north central part of Redwood Falls township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1915, is located in the western part of section 10. The site is large and well fenced and this is one of the most modern schoolhouses in the county. The people are very progressive and awake to every opportunity along educational lines and for many years have had nine months' terms of school.

District 5. The Rock Valley district, originally organized in 1868, is in the northwest corner of Swedes Forest township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1908, is located in the southwest corner of section 17, and is a substantial building, the windows of which are screened. The site is low and needs a fence. This was the last district in the county to vote seven or more months of school and it maintains a month of Norwegian parochial school at the close of the public school term. The attendance is good. (Note.

In 1872 district 5 was located in the southern part of Redwood county, being in Charlestown and Lamberton townships, but this was later changed to district 16.)

District 6. Originally organized in 1869, is in the northeastern part of Paxton township and the northwestern part of Sherman township. The schoolhouse in 6 East, known as the "Edison School," and erected in 1889, is located in the southwest corner of section 9 in Sherman township and the one in 6 West, called the "Eberhart School," erected the same year as the "Edison School," is located in the northwest corner of section 13 in Paxton township. The enrollment in each school is small and the schools are well equipped. Both schools have new modern out-houses, some of the best in the county. The sites are large and well fenced. The people of the community are very progressive in school matters.

District 7. Originally organized in 1869, is in the southwest quarter of New Avon township. The schoolhouse, named the James Whitcomb Riley school and erected in 1915, is located in the northeast corner of section 32. It is a fine modern two-room building, with a full basement which is divided off, allowing for rooms where industrial work may be done and also a large dining room. The community has provided a cookstove, table and benches for use in this room. The two class rooms are separated by a rolling door which at times of community gatherings is opened, making a large auditorium. The site is large and well drained, but needs fencing. This is one of the most beautiful rural buildings in the county.

District 8. Originally organized in 1869, is in the southeast part of New Avon township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1908, is located in the village of Rowena. This is a very good school, having a well equipped schoolroom and a good barn.

District 9. Originally organized in 1870, is in the southeastern part of Morgan township. The schoolhouse, called the "Wabasha School," and erected in 1876, is located in a natural woods in the eastern part of section 22. The site is small and needs leveling. The school has fine modern outhouses.

District 10. Originally organized in 1870, is in the central part of Swedes Forest. The schoolhouse, named "Open View" and erected in 1891, is located in the southeast corner of section 28. The building is well equipped and in a fairly good condition, although the enrollment is small. The people are very progressive.

District 11. Originally organized in 1870, is in the central part of Sheridan township. The schoolhouse, a poor building, having been erected in 1898, is located in the southern part of section 16. This is a good school with good equipment. The district is narrow and nearly six miles long, and it should be re-adjusted.

District 12. Originally organized in 1870, is in the southwest part of Sheridan and the northwest part of Vail townships. The schoolhouse, known as the "Sheridan" school and erected in 1890, is located in the eastern part of section 32 of Sheridan township. The building is in fair shape and is well equipped. The people of this community are progressive.

District 13. Originally organized in 1879, is in the southeast part of Sundown township. The schoolhouse, called "East Sundown" and erected in 1915, is located in the northern part of section 26. The building is new and situated on a beautiful site which is well fenced. This is a fairly well equipped school.

District 14. Originally organized in 1871, is in the northwest part of New Avon township. The schoolhouse, remodeled in 1912, is located in eastern part of section 8. The school is well equipped and was a large school but at present has a small enrollment.

District 15. Originally organized in 1871, is in the southwestern part of Three Lakes township. The schoolhouse, a two-room building, erected in 1905, is located in village of Clements. The schoolhouse is well equipped and has steam heat, situated on a beautiful site with trees and surrounded by a good fence.

District 16. Originally organized in 1874, is in the southwest part of Charlestown township. The schoolhouse, called "Pleasant View" and erected in 1892, is located in the southwest corner of section 28 and is in fairly good shape and well equipped. It is situated on a fine, high site, surrounded by trees.

District 17. Organized in 1871, is in the southeast part of Charlestown township. The schoolhouse is located in village of Sanborn. Sewing is given in the grades.

District 18. Originally organized in 1871, is in the western part of Delhi township. The schoolhouse is located in the village of Delhi. This has voted to be a consolidated district, with a fine modern building ready for use in September, 1917. Sewing is a special course offered in the grades.

District 19. Originally organized in 1871, is in the southern part of Johnsonville township, and the northern part of North Hero. The schoolhouse, a two-room building, known as the "Race" school, was erected in 1909. It is located in the west central part of section 4. The school is very well equipped and has a large play ground with play ground apparatus. The school also has a good barn.

District 20. Originally organized in 1871, is located in the west central part of Paxton township. The schoolhouse, named the "Longfellow" school and erected in 1912, is located in the north central part of section 20. This school is well equipped and has a fine playground surrounded by a good fence.

District 21. Originally organized in 1871, is in the southeast

quarter of Brookville township. The schoolhouse, named the "Hillside" school, and erected in 1910, is located in the northwest corner of section 26. This is a splendid large schoolhouse which is well equipped. The community is progressive and supports a good school.

District 22. Originally organized in 1874, is in the northeast part of Springdale township. The schoolhouse, named "Eugene Field," and erected in 1903, is located in the north central part of section 14. The building is fair and is well equipped. The school yard is surrounded by a splendid woven wire fence.

District 23. Originally organized in 1874, is in the southwest part of North Hero. The schoolhouse is located in Walnut Grove. Manual training and sewing are offered in this school.

District 24. Originally organized in 1874, is in the south central part of Springdale township. The schoolhouse, known as "Sunnyside" and erected in 1909, is located in the north central part of section 27. It is a good building on a large site located on a national highway and it is well equipped.

District 25. Originally organized in 1874, is in the southwest quarter of Brookville township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1901, is located in the central part of section 29. It is a good building, well equipped and the site is well fenced.

District 26. Originally organized in 1875, is in the southeast part of North Hero and the western part of Lamberton. The schoolhouse, a two-room building erected in 1899, is located in the village of Revere. They have a fine playground and many beautiful trees. The water is supplied by an artesian well.

District 27. Originally organized in 1875, is in the southwest part of Sundown township. The schoolhouse, called the "Sundown" school and erected in 1913, is in the central part of section 29. This is a large frame building with two class rooms and cloak rooms on the first floor, and a community room, library, and kitchen on the second floor. The school is well equipped. The playground has swings, teeters and other apparatus. This is the community center where "Farmers' Clubs" and "Mothers' Clubs" meet. There is a piano in the auditorium.

District 28. Originally organized in 1876, is in the southern part of Kintire township. The schoolhouse in 28 East, erected in 1912, is located in the southeast corner of section 22 and the one in 28 West, erected the same year, is located in the south central part of section 20. Both the school buildings are very good and well equipped, but the enrollment is small.

District 29. Originally organized in 1876, is in the northwest part of Lamberton township and in the southwest part of Waterbury township. The schoolhouse, named the "Riverside" and erected in 1894, is located in the southeast corner of section 5.

The building is fair and located on a high beautiful site, surrounded by fine trees. The school is well equipped.

District 30. Originally organized in 1876, is in the southwest quarter of Willow Lake township. The schoolhouse, a splendid four-room building with basement rooms used for domestic science, manual training and agriculture, is located in the village of Wanda. This is a consolidated school since 1913, having two wagons which bring the children in from the rural districts. Sewing, cooking, manual training and agriculture are offered here.

District 31. Originally organized in 1876, is in the southeast three quarters of Lamberton township. This is a consolidated school and is located in the village of Lamberton. There are two buildings, the one which the high school now occupies is very modern, being built in 1915. In the Lamberton high school are given the following special courses: Normal training, domestic science, agriculture and manual training.

District 32. Originally organized in 1876, is in the east central part of Willow Lake. The schoolhouse, erected in 1900, is located in the south central part of section 23. The building and the equipment is good. The site is somewhat low but well kept. A fine grove is found on the school site.

District 33. Originally organized in 1876, is in the northeast part of Charlestown township. The schoolhouse, called "Excelsior" and erected in 1908, is located in the south central part of section 11. The building is very good. Many young trees have been set out.

District 34. Originally organized in 1878, is in the northwest quarter of Brookville township. The schoolhouse, known as "Lakeside" and erected in 1891, is located in the central part of section 8. This is a fairly good school building and is well equipped except a heating and ventilating plant. The site is rough and therefore does not make a very good playground.

District 35. Originally organized in 1878, is in the southwest part of Gales township. The schoolhouse, known as the Nelson school and in fair shape, is located in the west central part of section 28. The interior is well equipped. There is a large area in this district. No record is found of the date of erecting this building.

District 36. Originally organized in 1879, is in the southwest quarter of Underwood township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Morgan" school and in fair shape, is located in the central parts of section 29. The building is well equipped and a fine new barn has been built. It is near a large grove. They have a nine months' term of school. No record is found of the date of the erection of this building.

District 37. Originally organized in 1879, is in the southwest

part of Westline township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Irving" school and erected in 1900, is located in the south central part of section 29. The building is good and well equipped and the school is good.

District 38. Originally organized in 1879, is in the southeast part of Westline. The schoolhouse, known as the "Van Sant" school and erected in 1894, is located in the central part of section 26. The building is fair and well equipped.

District 39. Originally organized in 1879, is in the northwest quarter of Gales township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Hawthorne" school, was erected in 1907 and is located in the central part of section 8. The building is good, with good equipment, and is situated on a fine large site. The enrollment in this school is very small.

District 40. Originally organized in 1879, is in the northeast quarter of Gales township. The schoolhouse, old and small, was erected in 1884 and is located on an unsanitary site in the south central part of section 11. The school is splendid and well equipped. Movement is on foot to consolidate or build a new building.

District 41. Originally organized in 1880, is in the northwest part of Lamberton township. In 1915 this district consolidated with Lamberton.

District 42. Originally organized in 1880, is in the northern part of Springdale township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1915, is located in the central part of section 8. They have a beautiful new building, painted white with the roof stained green. The school is good and well equipped. This is one of the most beautiful buildings in the county.

District 43. Originally organized in 1880, is in the northwest part of Westline township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Sherwood" school, was erected in 1904 and is located on the southern side of section 5. The building is good and well equipped. The site is large, on which a young grove has been planted.

District 44. Originally organized in 1880, is in the northeast quarter of Underwood township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Cahoon" school and erected in 1909, is located in the central part of section 11. They have a good school and a very good building, well equipped; also a large playground without any trees.

District 45. Originally organized in 1880, is in the northwest part of Charlestown township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Garfield" school, was erected in 1890 and is located in the central part of section 8. They have a good building, well equipped, also an excellent barn. The site is beautiful, surrounded by large shade trees.

District 46. Originally organized in 1880, is in the east-cen-

tral part of Sheridan township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1888, is located in the east-central part of section 24. The building is fair, but well equipped, and the enrollment now is small, although at one time large. There is a good fence around the school grounds. They maintain a nine-months' term of school.

District 47. Originally organized in 1880, is in the southeast part of Paxton township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1908, is located in the northwest corner of section 26. They have a splendid building on a beautiful site, surrounded by trees. The school is well kept and well equipped, for the community is especially interested in their school and its functions.

District 48. Originally organized in 1880, is in the northeastern part of Johnsonville township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1910, is located in the southwest corner of section 12. There is a good building on a small site near a large grove.

District 49. Originally organized in 1880, is in the northeast quarter of Brookville township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Franklin" school, was erected in 1903, with an addition in 1915, and is located in the central part of section 11. It is a two-room building, well equipped. A folding door separates the two classrooms and at community gatherings this door is raised, making a good sized auditorium. The people of this community are splendid school co-operative patrons.

District 50. Originally organized in 1880, is in the east-central part of Kintire township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1913, is located in the south-central part of section 2. This is a fine modern one-room building, on a two-acre site, which is well fenced. A grove of young trees has been started. The school has both a cistern and well on its grounds.

District 51. Originally organized in 1881, is in the southeast part of Morgan township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1906, is located near the southeast corner of section 26. This is a good building and the enrollment is small.

District 52. Originally organized in 1881, is located in the southwest corner of Swedes Forest township. The schoolhouse erected in 1900, is located in the northwest corner of section 31. They have a well kept, well equipped school. The grounds are neat and well kept. One month of Norwegian parochial school is taught at the close of the seven months' public school term.

District 53. Originally organized in 1881, is in the northeast part of Delhi township. The schoolhouse, named Ramsey, was erected in 1880, and is located in the central part of section 23. The building is fair with good equipment. A good school is maintained.

District 54. Originally organized in 1881, is in the southeast quarter of Vesta township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1905, is located in the central part of section 26. The building is fair,



with good equipment. The enrollment is large, too many for one teacher.

District 55. Originally organized in 1882, is in the east part of Swedes Forest and the northwest corner of Delhi township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1890, is located on the eastern side of section 26. The building is old and the enrollment is small. The people of the district are progressive and waiting for improved roads before joining with some other district for a better school.

District 56. Originally organized in 1882, is in the central part of Morgan township. The schoolhouse is located in the village of Morgan. In this school domestic science, agriculture, and manual training are given as special courses.

District 57. Originally organized in 1883, is in the northeastern part of North Hero township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1883, is located in the northwest corner of section 14. The building is old, but well equipped and is surrounded by large trees. They have a splendid nine-months' term of school.

District 58. Originally organized in 1883, is in the southeast part of Granite Rock township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Stevenson" school and erected in 1890, is located in the east-central part of section 26. The building is old, the school large, the attendance poor, and the equipment is fair.

District 59. Originally organized in 1883, is in the northwest part of Johnsonville township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1905, is located in the southwest corner of section 5. They have a good building with good equipment, on a small site. The patrons' attitude toward and interest in the school is improving.

District 60. Originally organized in 1884, is in the northeast part of Vail township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1900, is located in the southeast corner of section 11. The building is small and the outbuildings are poor, situated on a small site which needs fencing. The schoolhouse is fairly well equipped.

District 61. Originally organized in 1884, is in the northeast part of Sheridan, southeast part of Kintire, southwest part of Delhi and the northwest corner of Redwood Falls townships. The schoolhouse, erected in 1893, is located in the north-central part of section 1, Sheridan township. The building is fair and is well equipped; also, it has a good playground.

District 62. Originally organized in 1884, is in the east part of Gales, and southwest part of Johnsonville townships. The schoolhouse, named "Prairie Lawn," was erected in 1894 and is located in the east-central part of section 25. The building is fair with good equipment, situated on a large site.

District 63. Originally organized in 1885, is in the south-central part of Redwood Falls township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1890, is located near the southeast corner of section 28. The equipment of the school is excellent, but the building is only fair.

The site is fenced and dotted with beautiful shade trees. They maintain a good nine-months' school.

District 64. Originally organized in 1885, is in the southwest part of Waterbury township and in the east part of Johnsonville township. The schoolhouse is located in the east central part of section 30. The building is fair and the equipment does not meet the requirements for state aid, but the district has voted to fit up for aid this year. They have a seven-months' term and a large enrollment.

District 65. Originally organized in 1885, is located in the north-central part of Vail township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1905, is located in the north-central part of section 17. A good building with good equipment, is built on a small site. The enrollment is large.

District 66. Originally organized in 1886, is in the northwest quarter of Underwood township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1903, is located in the west-central part of section 8. The building is old and the equipment fair. There is good school spirit in the community and a good school is maintained.

District 67. Originally organized in 1886, is in the northeast part of Willow Lake township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1904, with an addition in 1914, is located in the west-central part of section 12. This is a two-room building, with excellent equipment. The enrollment is large.

District 68. Originally organized in 1887, is in the southeast quarter of Underwood township. The schoolhouse, a fair, but small building, erected in 1888, is located in the central part of section 26. The site, large and high, lies south and east of large tree claims. The equipment is quite good.

District 69. Originally organized in 1887, is in the northwestern part of Honner township. The schoolhouse, called the "Jefferson" school, remodeled in 1907, is in the village of North Redwood. This is a two-room building, but only one teacher is employed at the present time, one room being used as a playroom and manual training shop. It is now associated with Redwood Falls, so the industrial teachers from Redwood Falls supervise the sewing, agriculture, and manual training work. The school is steam-heated, and the school ground is well equipped with playground apparatus.

District 70. Originally organized in 1887, is in the northwest part of Sheridan, southwest part of Kintire, and northeast part of Vesta townships. The schoolhouse, remodeled and a second room added in 1913, is located in the northeast corner of section 6 in Sheridan township. It is a two-room building with good equipment, including a sewing machine. The site is high and well fenced, and a large grove of young trees has recently been set out. Hot lunches are furnished during the winter months.

District 71. Originally organized in 1887, is in the north-central part of Sundown township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1900, is located in the east-central part of section 8. Conditions show that the people in the community are interested in their school as they have a good building with good equipment, the site is fenced and well cared for, and a good school is maintained.

District 72. Originally organized in 1888, is in the central part of Johnsonville township. The schoolhouse is located in the west-central part of section 22, and is a small old building. There is only a small enrollment and for the past two years the school has been closed and the pupils transported to other schools where the tuition charge is paid by the district.

District 73. Originally organized in 1888, is in the northeast corner of Morgan township southeast corner of Sherman. The schoolhouse is located in the northeast corner of section 3, Morgan township. This is a fairly good building with good equipment and a good playground.

District 74. Originally organized in 1889, is in the northwest part of Kintire township. The schoolhouse is located in the village of Belview. In this school, sewing and manual training are given as special courses.

District 75. Originally organized in 1890, is in the southeast part of Sheridan and the northeast part of Vail. The schoolhouse, known as the "Alcott" school, and erected in 1904, is located in the south-central part of section 35. The school is very well equipped, but the building is fair. They support a good school.

District 76. Originally organized in 1890, is in the southwest part of Vail. The schoolhouse, erected in 1895, is located in the central part of section 29. The building is fair, but is well equipped and the enrollment is large.

District 77. Originally organized in 1890, is in the south-central part of North Hero. The schoolhouse, remodeled in 1909, is located in the northwest corner of section 34. The building and the equipment good.

District 78. Originally organized in the northeast part of Waterbury township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Pratt" school, was erected in 1915, and is located in the northeast corner of section 10. This is a very fine two-room building on a site of two and one-half acres. The schoolhouse has a fine basement which provides for indoor toilets, industrial room and two furnace rooms. A folding partition between the class rooms makes it possible to make the two rooms one large auditorium. This building is heated by two furnaces, which give the best satisfaction of any hot air system in a school building in this county at the present time. Trees are found on the north and west sides of the grounds. The people are progressive and maintain a good school.

District 79. Originally organized in 1891, is in the southwest part of Granite Rock township. The schoolhouse, called "Superior," was erected in 1895, and is located in the southeast corner of section 30. This is a well equipped school, with a good building and a good barn on a large site.

District 80. Originally organized in 1891, is in the northwest part of Granite Rock township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1896, is located in the northeast corner of section 11. The building, situated near a grove, is good, with good equipment and a good playground. The attendance has improved much over previous years.

District 81. Originally organized in 1891, is in the northwest part of Granite Rock township. The schoolhouse, named "Lafayette," is located in the south-central part of section 5. The building is very good, surrounded by a large playground. The enrollment is large.

District 82. Originally organized in 1892, is in the southwest quarter of Vesta. The schoolhouse, erected in 1915, is located in the central part of section 29. This is a fine new building on a new site which has been exceptionally well cared for. This building is very convenient and economical. The interior is very beautiful and affords every opportunity now possible to present-day methods in a one-room rural school.

District 83. Originally organized in 1893, is in the southeast part of Paxton, northwest corner of Morgan, northeast corner of Three Lakes, and the southwest corner of Sherman. The schoolhouse, named "Gilfillan," was erected in 1893, and is located in the northwest part of section 6, in Morgan township. They have a fair building with good equipment, and they employ two teachers. There is a splendid school spirit in this community.

District 84. Originally organized in 1893, is in the southeast part of Vail township. The schoolhouse is located in the village of Wabasso.

District 85. Originally organized in 1894, is in the northwest part of Waterbury township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1894, is located in the south-central part of section 8. The building is fair, with fair equipment, and the site is neat and clean.

District 86. Originally organized in 1894, is in the northeast part of Sundown township. The schoolhouse, a good building, was erected in 1907, and is located in the east-central part of section 11. The equipments of the school are good and the school is situated on a site well fenced and well cared for. They maintain a good school.

District 87. Originally organized in 1894, is in the northeast quarter of Westline township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Kipling" school, and moved into this district in 1894, is located

in the west-central part of section 11. The building is very poor and altogether too small for the number of pupils. The equipment is fair and the attendance is very irregular.

District 88. Originally organized in 1894, is in the southeastern part of Willow Lake and the northeastern part of Charlestown. The schoolhouse, named "Washington," was erected in 1895 and is located in the south-central part of section 35, of Willow Lake township. The building is fair, and the site small, but well kept. They maintain a good school with a large enrollment.

District 89. Originally organized in 1895, is in the south-central part of Delhi township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Helen Keller" school, and erected in 1904, is located in the northwest corner of section 34. This is an eight-cornered building, surrounded by good playground. There are a few trees around the schoolhouse. The enrollment is too small for good results.

District 90. Originally organized in 1896, is in the southwest part of Morgan township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Fairview" school, was erected in 1890, and is located on southeast corner of section 30. They have a fair, but well equipped building, surrounded by a good playground, which is well fenced. This building was evidently moved here from some other district.

District 91. Originally organized in 1896, was in the southwest part of Lamberton township. In 1915, it consolidated with the school district of Lamberton.

District 92. Originally organized in 1897, is in the east-central part of Three Lakes and the west-central part of Morgan township. The schoolhouse, named the "Betsy Ross" school, and erected in 1898, is located near the northeast corner of section 24, Three Lakes township. This is a good building with good equipment, situated on a site well kept and well fenced.

District 93. Originally organized in 1898, is in the east-central part of Waterbury township. It consolidated with Wanda in 1913.

District 94. Originally organized in 1898, is in the northwest quarter of Willow Lake township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1915, is located in the central part of section 8. They have a fine new building with good equipment, surrounded by a good playground.

District 95. Originally organized in 1899, is in the west-central part of Westline township. The schoolhouse, a four-room building, erected in 1909, is located in the village of Milroy. Three teachers are employed and one year of high school work is offered. They have beautiful grounds, equipped with playground apparatus.

District 96. Originally organized in 1899, is in the southeast

part of Redwood Falls township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1900, is located near the northeast corner of section 23. This is a good building, well equipped on a good site. The enrollment is too small for good results. They maintain a nine-months' term of school.

District 97. Originally organized in 1900, is in the southeast corner of Redwood Falls, northeast corner of New Avon, southwest corner of Paxton and the northwest corner of Three Lakes. The schoolhouse, erected in 1908, is located in the central part of section 1, in New Avon township. The building, equipment and site are good. They have a large school in which good work is done.

District 98. Originally organized in 1900, is in the southwest part of Springdale township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1901, is located in the east-central part of section 30. The school building, which is a good one, is located in a large grove. The people of this community are progressive and maintain a good nine-months' term of school.

District 99. Originally organized in 1900, is in the south-central part of Sherman township, and the north-central part of Morgan township. The schoolhouse, known as the "McKinley" school, was erected in 1901, and is located in the southeast corner of section 32, Sherman township. The building is good and well equipped, and the site is clean and well kept, but needs trees and fence.

District 100. Originally organized in 1900, is in the west-central part of Sherman township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1899, is located in the northeast corner of section 30. It has a good building, well equipped, on a fine site.

District 101. Originally organized in 1901, is in the east-central part of New Avon and the west-central part of Three Lakes township. The schoolhouse named "The Golden Rule," and erected in 1914, is located in the east-central part of section 13, of New Avon. They have a fine, well equipped school which is on a low site. A good school is maintained.

District 102. Originally organized in 1901, is in the central part of Vesta township. The schoolhouse is located in the village of Vesta. This is a four-room frame building, on a site dotted with shade trees. The playground is fitted up with apparatus. They employ four teachers and offer one year of high school work. Sewing is taught in the grades.

District 103. Originally organized in 1901, is in the north-central part of Sheridan township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1901, is located in the central part of section 10. It is a good building with good equipment, near a large grove. They maintain a good school.

District 104. Originally organized in 1901, is in the south-

west-central part of Sheridan township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Okawa" school, and erected in 1902, is located in the village of Seaforth. This is a four-room building, very well equipped, but only hire two teachers.

District 105. Originally organized in 1904, is located in the southwest corner of Three Lakes. The schoolhouse, named "Marion," was erected in 1900 and is located in the southeast corner of section 27. The school is well equipped although the building is fair and the site small. They maintain a good school.

District 106. Originally organized in 1904, is in the central part of Three Lakes. The schoolhouse, called the "Sunrise" school, and erected in 1907, is located in the south-central part of section 16. This is a good building, on a site which is fenced. The enrollment is large and the attendance fair.

District 107. Originally organized in 1904, is in the north-central part of Three Lakes, and in the south-central part of Paxton township. The schoolhouse, called the "Lincoln" school, and erected in 1904, is located in the southeast corner of section 32. This is a good building, with good equipment, located on a site which is well fenced.

District 108. Originally organized in 1904, is in the central part of Granite Rock township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1904, is located in the village of Lucan. This is a two-room building, situated on beautiful grounds, having fine shade trees and equipped with playground apparatus. The basement is fitted up for a shop for elementary manual training work. There is splendid co-operative school spirit in this district.

District 109. Originally organized in 1904, is in the east-central part of Morgan township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1904, is located in the northwest corner of section 13. They have a good building and this year equipped for state aid.

District 110. Originally organized in 1906, is in the central part of Waterbury township. The schoolhouse, known as the "Lowell" school, was erected in 1906, and is located in the east-central part of section 16. This is a good building, well equipped, on a high site. They maintain a good school.

District 111. Originally organized in 1906, is in the northwest part of Redwood Falls township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1907, is located in the north-central part of section 8. They have a good building, well equipped, on a large high site. Young trees have recently been set out.

District 112. Originally organized in 1908, is in the southeast part of Johnsonville and the northeast part of North Hero township. The schoolhouse, erected in 1909, is located in the northeast corner of section 35. This is a very good school building, having good equipment. The site needs trees and fence.

District 113. Originally organized in 1910, is in the north-



central part of Johnsonville township and the south-central part of Granite Rock. The schoolhouse, known as the "Hiawatha" school and erected in 1910, is located near the northwest corner of section 10 in Johnsonville township. They have a splendid, well equipped building, situated on a large site near a large grove. The equipment is very good and a good school is maintained.

All the city and village schools have a nine-months' term of school and in the rural schools, not otherwise mentioned, there is an eight-month's term.

**County Superintendents.** The first county superintendent was Edward March, first appointed school examiner and then superintendent. He was appointed Sept. 5, 1866, and served until Nov. 16, 1869, when he resigned. E. A. Chandler served from Nov. 16, 1869, to April 1, 1872. Dr. W. D. Flinn served from April 1, 1872, to April 1, 1874. William B. Harriott was superintendent from April 1, 1874 to Feb. 1, 1876. D. L. Bigham served from Feb. 1, 1876, to Feb. 1, 1878. R. W. Hoyt served from Feb. 1, 1878, to March 19, 1879. M. M. Madigan was appointed his successor, and after serving a short time was succeeded by D. L. Bigham in 1880. Mr. Bigham was followed by R. L. Marshman. It was in 1886 that S. J. Race was appointed. He served until Nov. 2, 1906, and was followed by H. J. Bebermeyer. Mrs. Adella Huntington-Pratt has served since Jan. 1, 1912.

For the year ending Jan. 7, 1868, the county superintendent received a salary of \$25. Jan. 6, 1870, it was raised to \$50 a year. Jan. 4, 1872, it was increased to \$100 a year. March 20, 1876, the compensation of the county superintendent was fixed at \$10 a district, provided that he should fulfill his duties in accordance with the state laws. Jan. 3, 1893, the salary plan was resumed, and the county superintendent was to receive \$900 a year. This was increased Jan. 5, 1897, to \$910; Jan. 4, 1898, to \$1,000; Jan. 8, 1907, to \$1,300; Jan. 7, 1908, to \$1,500; Jan. 4, 1910, to \$1,600; Jan. 3, 1911, to \$1,700; and Jan. 2, 1912, to \$1,800.

**S. J. Race** was born in Philadelphia, Pa.; educated in the public schools and graduated from the university of that state. He taught school in Dakota county, Minnesota; later removed to Redwood Falls, and entered the mercantile industry. In 1886 he was called to the superintendency of the Redwood county schools, in which place he continued for nearly twenty years. The county, when he assumed charge of the schools, had an organization of sixty-four districts. When he resigned in 1906 it had an organization of one hundred and ten. The schools in the beginning were poorly equipped and not very efficiently taught. The standard of scholarship was rather low; there were few, if any, teachers holding state first grade certificates. The normal school graduate

had not made her advent into the country. Heating, ventilation and sanitation were practically undreamed of in the country school. The average length of term was about five months, this being gradually extended till it became an average of a little more than seven months in 1906. Libraries, free text books, and supervision came in 1896, so that the standard of scholarship of the teachers was very materially raised. School board members seemed to have awakened an educational consciousness through co-operation. During the last ten years of his connection with the country schools of the county, he was appointed by the state superintendent of public instruction to act as president of the state examining board for granting professional certificates, and to personally inspect state summer schools, and to act as a conductor of the state teachers' institutes. He says, "the constant association with the state department of education put a special emphasis on the improvement of the rural school and the country life problem; and if the schools of the county made any improvement during the twenty years I was associated with it, it is largely due to the interests awakened by the teachers and the school boards themselves that brought about the excellency of the school system that prevailed at the time I left the work in 1906."

At the present time Mr. Race lives in Minneapolis, being connected with the Northwestern School Supply Company, and being manager of the Minneapolis Teachers' Agency.

It is a recognized fact in the whole county that it was through the efforts of Mr. Race that Redwood county became an educational county, and that its schools are today recognized as among the best in the state. When he began his work here in 1886, the schools were unorganized, scantily equipped, and poorly taught. He began immediately to systematize the work and improve the teaching force. Later he emphasized better equipment and better buildings. It is largely through his efforts that the Redwood county schools are so excellent today.

**H. J. Bebermeyer** was born at Lakeland, Minn. His early education was obtained in the public schools of his native county, after which he entered Central Wesleyan college at Warrenton, Missouri, from which he graduated in 1890. Returning to his native state he taught for two years in the rural schools, four years in St. Paul college, five years as principal of schools at New Prague, and two years as principal at Jordan. In 1903 he came to Wabassa and entered the furniture and undertaking business. In 1906 he became a candidate before the primaries for the Republican nomination for county superintendent of schools. He was successful at both the primaries and the polls, and in 1908 was re-elected without opposition. In 1912 he was succeeded by Mrs. Adella Huntington-Pratt. Supt. Bebermeyer

was a tireless worker and ranks as one of Redwood county's best superintendents of schools. He is at the present time the editor of the newspaper at Granite Falls, Minn.

**Mrs. Adella Huntington-Pratt** was born in Platteville, Wis. Her early education was obtained in the public schools of that place, later being graduated from the Platteville Normal school. She holds a first grade state professional certificate from this state. She has attended summer school for two years at the University of Minnesota, for one year at Chicago, and for one year at Chautauqua, New York. After graduating from Normal Mrs. Pratt taught for one year in the rural schools of Wisconsin. She came to Redwood county the following year and taught in a rural school in the southern part of the county and during the next four years she taught in the grades in Redwood Falls. For two years she was assistant in the high school and the next year held the place of principal of the high school in Redwood Falls. She was Normal instructor in the same school the following year. In 1912 she was elected to the office of county superintendent of schools in Redwood county, by popular vote, which place she has most efficiently filled since that time. She has done much to make the schools of Redwood county better. Four districts have consolidated during her term of office, many new schoolhouses have been erected, and the schools in general are much improved. The teachers and school officers have awakened to a realization of the great need of co-operation in working for the best schools for the children in the rural communities. It is due largely to Mrs. Pratt's efforts that the schools of Redwood county have made such rapid strides for better schools in the past four years.

**Authorship.** This article has been prepared under the personal supervision of Mrs. Adella Huntington-Pratt, county superintendent of schools. The work on the auditor's records and the reports of the county superintendent's reports and records has been done by Miss Lillian Jensen, assisted by Miss Esther Jensen and Miss Adeline Anderson. The work on the reports of the state superintendents of public instruction has been done by Miss Evelyn Bolin.

**Authority.** Reports of the county superintendents of schools (manuscript) in the custody of the Redwood county auditor.

Reports of the state superintendents of public instruction (printed).

Records of the county commissioners (manuscript) in the custody of the Redwood county auditor.

Records of the county superintendent of schools (manuscript) in the county superintendent's office.

Personal observations of Mrs. Adella Huntington-Pratt.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

**LIVE STOCK.**

When the assessment of 1868 was taken the majority of the settlers were assessed for two horses apiece, and a cow or two, and in some cases a pig. In the present county outside of the Swedes Forest settlement there were 101 horses, 297 cattle, 277 sheep and 67 hogs. The sheep were all in Charlestown, where Joseph T. Bean owned 11 horses, 15 cattle and 99 sheep, and Charles Porter owned two horses, one cow and 178 sheep. F. W. Byington of Paxton had five hogs, the largest number in the county. Bernhart Kuenzli of Honner, had twenty-five cattle, the largest number in the county.

During the Pioneer Period there was a gradual increase in stockraising in the county, as shown by the assessment returns.

In 1872, the last year of the Pioneer Period, there were in the county 397 horses, 105 being under three years old, and 292 being over that age. They were divided as follows: Under three years—Redwood Falls, 89; Sheridan, 4; Sherman, 6; Charlestown, 6. The average value was \$35.70, the highest being \$38.33, in Sherman, and the lowest \$31.25 in Sheridan. Over three years—Redwood Falls, 219; Sheridan, 30; Sherman, 26, and Charlestown, 17. The average value was \$65.02, the highest being \$66.40 in Sheridan, and the lowest \$64.12 in Charlestown.

There were 1,125 cattle; 409 being under two years old; 468 being cows over two years old; and 248 being oxen and steers. They were divided as follows: Under two years old—Redwood Falls, 269; Sheridan, 41; Sherman, 79; Charlestown, 20. The average value was \$8.85, the highest being \$9.10 in Charlestown and the lowest \$8.69 in Redwood Falls. Cows over two years old—Redwood Falls, 319; Sheridan, 49; Sherman, 61; Charlestown, 39. The average value was \$20.23, the highest being \$20.75 in Sheridan and the lowest \$19.45 in Redwood Falls. Oxen and steers—Redwood Falls, 117; Sheridan, 58; Sherman, 31; Charlestown, 42. The average value was \$31.20, the highest being \$31.78 in Charlestown and the lowest \$30.34 in Sheridan.

The sheep numbered 595, there being 84 in Redwood Falls, and 511 in Charlestown. The average value was \$1.62.

In the county at this time there were 307 swine, 200 being in Redwood Falls, 69 in Sheridan, 9 in Sherman, and 29 in Charlestown. The average value was \$2.81, the highest being \$5.00 in Sherman and the lowest being \$1.25 in Redwood Falls.

Redwood Falls township had not been created but was generally understood to consist of everything in the county not otherwise organized as townships. Sheridan and Sherman consisted

of their present area, Charlestown consisted of Charlestown and Lamberton.

The year 1873 marked the beginning of the grasshopper period. Brookville, New Avon, Sheridan, Sherman and Sundown then consisted of their present areas; Charlestown consisted of Charlestown and Lamberton; Swedes Forest consisted of Swedes Forest, Kintire and the northern part of Delhi; while Redwood Falls was generally understood to consist of the rest of the county.

In the county at that time there were 635 horses (as compared with 397 in 1872), 139 (as compared with 105 in 1872) being under three years old, and 496 (as compared with 292 in 1872) being over that age. They were divided as follows: Under three years old—Brookville, 6; Charlestown, 5; New Avon, 10; Redwood Falls, 78; Sheridan, 7; Sherman, 19; Swedes Forest, 7; Sundown, 7. The average value was \$28.30, the highest being \$32.14 in Sheridan and Sundown townships, and the lowest \$22.00 in Charlestown. Over three years old—Brookville, 39; Charlestown, 44; New Avon, 36; Redwood Falls, 244; Sheridan, 60; Sherman, 31; Swedes Forest, 18; Sundown, 24. The average value was \$59.85, the highest being \$67.58 in Sheridan and the lowest \$46.14 in Charlestown.

There were 2,161 cattle (as compared with 1,125 in 1872); 837 (as compared with 409 in 1872) being under two years old; 793 (as compared with 468 in 1872) being cows over two years old; 531 (as compared with 248 in 1872) being oxen and steers. They were divided as follows: Under two years old—Brookville, 47; Charlestown, 28; New Avon, 41; Redwood Falls, 455; Sheridan, 53; Swedes Forest, 50; Sherman, 132; Sundown, 31. The average value was \$7.60, the highest being \$8.80 in Redwood Falls, the lowest \$6.22 in Swedes Forest. Cows over two years old—Brookville, 58; Charlestown, 60; New Avon, 51; Redwood Falls, 352; Sheridan, 53; Sherman, 81; Swedes Forest, 86; Sundown, 52. The average value was \$16.95, the highest being \$19.60 in New Avon and the lowest \$15.10 in Charlestown. Oxen and steers—Brookville, 44; Charlestown, 53; New Avon, 33; Redwood Falls, 179; Sheridan, 44; Sherman, 49; Swedes Forest, 65; Sundown, 64. The average value was \$26.80, the highest being \$29.55 in Brookville, the lowest \$21.69 in Swedes Forest.

The sheep numbered 425 (as compared with 595 in 1872), there being one in Brookville, 323 in Charlestown, 62 in Redwood Falls, one in Sherman, 36 in Swedes Forest, and the rest of the townships having none. The average value was \$1.64, the highest being \$2 in Brookville and Sherman, the lowest being \$1 in Redwood Falls.

There were 290 (as compared with 307 in 1872) swine, 9 being in Brookville, 25 in Charlestown, 15 in New Avon, 135 in Redwood Falls, 56 in Sheridan, 30 in Sherman, 3 in Swedes Forest, 17 in

Sundown. The average value was \$2.60, the highest being \$2.66 in Redwood Falls, the lowest \$2.00 in Brookville.

Eleven mules and asses had been brought into the county, divided as follows: Charlestown, 2; New Avon, 2; Redwood Falls, 4; Sherman, 1, and Sundown, 2; the average value being \$58.63.

The year 1877 marked the last grasshopper year. That year the little insects disappeared in the summer. But the memory of their devastations had limited the crop acreage and the effect of their presence remained throughout the summer.

In 1877 Delhi did not include fractional town 114-36, Swedes forest consisted of Swedes Forest, Kintire, and fractional township 114-36. Sheridan, New Avon, Sherman, Brookville, Sundown, Willow Lake, Charlestown, Lamberton, North Hero, Springdale, Three Lakes, Underwood, and Gales townships, all had their present area; Willow Lake, North Hero, Springdale, Three Lakes, Underwood and Gales having been organized since 1873. Charlestown and Lamberton had been separated since 1873.

In the county at that time there were 943 horses (as compared with 635 in 1873), 163 (as compared with 139 in 1873) being under three years old, and 780 (as compared with 496 in 1873) being over that age. They were divided as follows: Under three years old—Redwood Falls, 55; Swedes Forest, 13; Sheridan, 8; New Avon, Delhi and Underwood, 5; Sherman, 11; Brookville, 17; Sundown, 10; Willow Lake and Gales, 3; Charlestown, 12; Lamberton and Three Lakes, none; North Hero, 2, and Springdale, 14. The average value was \$20.12, the highest being \$20.91 in Sherman and the lowest \$19.28 in Springdale. Over three years old—Redwood Falls, 279; Swedes Forest, 32; Delhi, 32; Sheridan, 28; North Hero, 28; New Avon, 41; Sherman, 52; Brookville, 60; Sundown, 35; Springdale, 35; Willow Lake, 16; Charlestown, 46; Lamberton, 58; Three Lakes, 11; Underwood, 8, and Gales, 9. The average value was \$42.07, the highest being \$43.56 and the lowest \$40.08.

There were 4,646 (as compared with 2,161 in 1873) cattle; 1,256 (as compared with 837 in 1873) being under two years old; 2,215 (as compared with 793 in 1873) being cows over two years old; 1,175 (as compared with 531 in 1873) being oxen and steers. They were divided as follows: Under two years—Redwood Falls, 335; Swedes Forest, 91; Sheridan, 68; New Avon, 55; Sherman, 89; Brookville, 77; Sundown, 82; Willow Lake, 47; Charlestown, 90; Lamberton, 63; Delhi, 63; North Hero, 70; Springdale, 35; Three Lakes, 22; Underwood, 37, and Gales, 32. The average value was \$5.18, the highest being \$5.77 in Three Lakes, the lowest \$5 in New Avon, Brookville, Springdale and Underwood. Cows over two years—Redwood Falls, 580; Swedes Forest, 151; Sheridan, 98; New Avon, 110; Sherman, 140; Brookville, 207;

Sundown, 158; Charlestown, 158; Willow Lake, 71; Lamberton, 124; Springdale, 124; North Hero, 113; Delhi, 74; Three Lakes, 21; Underwood, 50, and Gales, 36. The average value was \$11.67 the highest being \$12.69 in North Hero, and the lowest \$11.17 in Gales. Oxen and steers—Redwood Falls, 319; Swedes Forest, 102; Sheridan, 43; New Avon, 65; Sherman, 82; Brookville, 73; Sundown, 67; Willow Lake, 45; Charlestown, 69, and North Hero, 69; Lamberton, 44; Springdale, 70; Delhi, 48; Three Lakes, 18; Underwood, 38, and Gales, 23. The average value was \$16.82, the highest being \$21.30 in Gales, and the lowest \$13.81 in Lamberton.

The number of sheep was 1,560 (as compared with 425 in 1873). They were divided as follows: Redwood Falls, 543; Swedes Forest, 133; Sheridan, 1; New Avon, 142; Sherman, 5; Three Lakes, 5; Underwood, 5; Brookville, 54; Sundown, 14; Gales, 14; Willow Lake, 12; Charlestown, 438; Lamberton, 34; North Hero, 32; Springdale, 28, and Delhi, 100. The average value was \$1.47, the highest being \$1.59 in New Avon and the lowest \$1.00 in Sheridan and Sherman.

In the county at this time there were 690 swine (as compared with 290 in 1873). They were divided as follows: Redwood Falls, 269; Swedes Forest, 43; Sheridan, 39; New Avon, 22; Sherman, 25; Brookville, 50; Sundown, 54; Willow Lake, 27; Charlestown, 55; Lamberton, 19; North Hero, 20; Springdale, 16; Delhi, 17; Three Lakes, 5; Underwood, 21 and Gales 8. The average value was \$1.69, the highest being \$3.75 in Gales and the lowest \$1.11 in Sundown.

There were 16 mules and asses in the county divided as follows: Redwood Falls, 14, and Willow Lake, 2, the average value being \$44.06.

In spite of the serious setbacks caused by the grasshopper ravages, the county had steadily increased its agricultural endeavors from 1873 to 1877, although the taxable area had been decreased.

The number of horses under three years of age increased from 139 in 1873 to 162 in 1877. In 1874 the number decreased to 124, jumped to 173 in 1875, and decreased to 147 in 1876. The horses over three years, cattle under two years, and cows over two years show a gradual increase. The number of oxen and steers, jumped from 531 in 1873 to 1,221 in 1876, and then dropped to 1,175 in 1877. The number of sheep jumped from 670 in 1873 to 974 in 1876 and then decreased to 560 in 1877. The number of swine jumped from 290 in 1873 to 785 in 1876, and then decreased to 690 in 1877.

The year 1878 marks the beginning of the period of rapid growth.

Waterbury township had been organized since 1877, Swedes



Forest still consisted of Swedes Forest and Kintire. Redwood Falls township still consisted of Honner, Vesta, Redwood Falls, Paxton, Granite Rock, Vail, Morgan, Johnsonville and Westline. During the period of 1878-1905, Johnsonville and Westline were organized in 1879, and Honner, Kintire, Morgan, Paxton, Vail, and Vesta were organized in 1880 and Granite Rock in 1889, although it had been taxed as a separate entity since 1880.

In the county in 1878 there were 1,511 horses, 236 being under three years old, and 1,275 being over that age. They were divided as follows: Under three years old, Redwood Falls, 66; Swedes Forest, 13; Charlestown, 13; Sheridan, 8; New Avon, 9; Lamberton, 9; Sherman, 21; Brookville, 21; Sundown, 11; Willow Lake, 3; Gales, 3; North Hero, 15; Springdale, 14; Three Lakes, 1; Delhi, 17; Underwood, 6, and Waterbury, 6. The average value was \$23.30, the highest being \$26.35 in Delhi and the lowest \$22.85 in Brookville. Over three years old: Redwood Falls, 425; Swedes Forest, 51; Sheridan, 39; New Avon, 37; Sherman, 43; Brookville, 93; Sundown, 61, and North Hero, 61; Willow Lake, 28; Underwood, 28; Charlestown, 77; Springdale, 77; Lamberton, 89; Three Lakes, 50; Delhi, 56; Gales, 44, and Waterbury, 16. The average value was \$45.90. The highest being \$47.50 in Redwood Falls and the lowest, \$43.85 in Sheridan.

There were 6,008 cattle, 1,750 being under two years old, 2,465 being cows over two years old, and 1,783 being oxen and steers. They were divided as follows: Under two years old, Redwood Falls, 397; Swedes Forest, 128; Sheridan, 83; New Avon, 84; North Hero, 84; Sherman, 77; Brookville, 141; Sundown, 124; Willow Lake, 86; Charlestown, 143; Lamberton, 89; Springdale, 65; Three Lakes, 44; Delhi, 80; Underwood, 49; Gales, 48, and Waterbury, 28. The average value was \$5.24, the highest being \$5.90 in Gales and the lowest \$4.75 in Brookville. Cows over two years old: Redwood Falls, 604; Swedes Forest, 148; Sheridan, 106; New Avon, 97; Sherman, 108; Brookville, 246; Sundown, 161; Willow Lakes, 90; Charlestown, 170; Lamberton, 154; North Hero, 135; Springdale, 145; Three Lakes, 46; Delhi, 111; Underwood, 50; Gales, 59, and Waterbury, 35. The average value was \$14, the highest being \$14.80 in Brookville and the lowest \$12.46 in North Hero. Oxen and steers: Redwood Falls, 470; Swedes Forest, 134; Sheridan, 61; New Avon and North Hero, 81; Sherman, 112; Brookville, 89; Springdale, 89; Sundown, 82; Willow Lake, 40; Charlestown, 102; Lamberton, 78; Three Lakes, 43; Delhi, 69; Underwood, 175; Gales, 53, and Waterbury, 24. The average value was \$21.12, the highest being \$37.13 in Charlestown and the lowest \$19.34 in Sherman.

The number of sheep was 2,598. They were divided as follows: Redwood Falls, 576; Swedes Forest, 129; Sheridan, 81; New Avon, 371; Sherman, 28; Brookville, 97; Sundown, 25; Willow Lake, 26;

Charlestown, 420; Lamberton, 56; North Hero, 38; Springdale, 161; Three Lakes, 11; Delhi, 442; Underwood, 5; Gales, 16; Waterbury, 116. The average value was \$1.55, the highest being \$1.79 in Delhi and the lowest \$1.41 in Brookville.

The swine numbered 714, divided as follows: Redwood Falls, 172; Swedes Forest, 63; Springdale and Sheridan, 27; New Avon, 20; Sherman, 19; Brookville, 45; Sundown, 41; Willow Lake, 26; Charlestown, 73; Lamberton, 55; North Hero, 46; Three Lakes, 14; Delhi, 40; Underwood, 17; Gales, 12, and Waterbury, 17. The average value was \$1.50, the highest being \$1.80 in New Avon, the lowest \$1.50.

There were 31 mules and asses, divided as follows: Redwood Falls, 4; New Avon, 1; Brookville, 6; Willow Lake, 9; North Hero, 2; Springdale, 2; Three Lakes, 3, and Underwood, 4. The average value was \$52.45, the highest being \$54.50 in Underwood and the lowest \$51.66 in Three Lakes.

During the period of rapid growth, the agricultural progress of the county was remarkable, and an almost marvelous increase was seen in stock raising in the county. Up to the late eighties and early nineties, there were many large herds of steers in the county, some numbering as high as a thousand head. But about that time dairying began to assume more important aspects, and gradually the herds of steers became smaller and the herds of dairy cows larger. This was brought about by the taking up of all the land, and the cultivation of tracts that had hitherto been wild and open.

Johnsonville and Westline first appear on the assessment rolls in 1879. In that year 30 people were assessed for personal taxes in Johnsonville and 24 in Westline. Honner, Kintire, Morgan, Paxton, Vail, Vesta, and Granite Rock (unorganized) first appear on the assesment rolls in 1880. In that year 51 people were assessed for personal taxes in Honner, 17 in Kintire, 18 in Morgan, 56 in Paxton, 16 in Vail, 19 in Vesta, and 12 in Granite Rock (unorganized).

The agricultural assessments in detail for Johnsonville and Westline in 1879, and Kintire, Honner, Morgan, Paxton, Vail, Vesta and Granite Rock (unorganized) in 1880 were as follows.

Johnsonville. Horses, under three years old, 5; total value, \$100; average value, \$20. Three years old and over, 51; total value, \$2,588; average value, \$50.74. Cattle, under two years old, 44; average value, \$5.20; total value, \$229. Cows, 48; total value, 562; average value, \$11.70. All other cattle two years old and over, 44; total value, \$876; average value, \$19.90. Sheep, 35; total value, \$53; average value, \$1.51. Swine, 13; total value, \$29; average value, \$2.23.

Westline. Horses, three years old and over, 37; total value, \$1,859; average value, \$50.24. Cattle, under two years old, 14;

average value, \$5.14; total value, \$72. Cows, 33; total value, \$388; average value, \$11.75. All other cattle two years old and over, 17; total value \$338; average value, \$19.88. Mules and asses, 7; total value, \$360; average value, \$51.42. Swine, 10; total value, \$23; average value, \$2.30.

Honner. Horses, under three years old, 15; total value, \$390; average value, \$26.00. Three years old and over, 54; total value, \$2,736; average value, \$50.66. Cattle, under two years old, 27; average value, 6.22; total value, \$168. Cows, 69; total value, \$827; average value, \$11.98. All other cattle two years old and over, 12; total value, \$356; average value, \$29.66. Mules and asses, 8; total value, \$410; average value, \$51.25. Sheep, 2; total value, \$3; average value, \$1.50. Swine, 21; total value, \$60; average value, \$2.86.

Kintire. Horses, under three years old, 1; total value, \$32; average value, \$32. Three years old and over, 42; total value, \$2,107; average value, \$15.60. Cattle, under two years old, 42; average value, \$6.00; total value, \$252. Cows, 43; total value, \$516; average value, \$12.00. All other cattle two years old and over, 18; total value, \$253; average value, \$14.50. Mules and asses, 7; total value, \$420; average value, \$60.00. Sheep, 232; total value, \$384; average value, \$1.50. Swine, 11; total value, \$11; average value, \$1.00.

Morgan. Horses, under three years old, 4; total value, \$126; average value, \$31.50. Three years old and over, 47; total value, \$2,359; average value, \$50.19. Cattle, under two years old, 26; total value, \$186; average value, \$7.15. Cows, 35; total value, \$420; average value, \$12.00. All other cattle two years old and over, 9; total value, \$120; average value, \$13.33. Mules and asses, 2; total value, \$100; average value, \$50. Sheep, 10; total value, \$15; average value, \$1.50. Swine, 18; total value, \$19; average value, \$1.06.

Paxton. Horses, under three years old, 10; total value, \$172; average value, \$17.20. Three years old and over, 117; total value, \$5,874; average value, \$50.20. Cattle, under two years old, 64; average value, \$7.73; total value, \$495. Cows, 105; total value, \$1,265; average value, \$12.04. All other cattle, two years old and over, 29; total value, \$436; average value, \$15.03. Mules and asses, 11; total value, \$455; average value, \$41.36. Sheep, 180; total value, \$275; average value, \$1.53. Swine, 52; total value, \$85; average value, \$1.63.

Vail. Horses, under three years old, 1; total value, \$32; average value, \$32. Three years old and over, 26; total value, \$1,302; average value, \$50.07. Cattle, under two years old, 48; average value, \$6.00; total value, \$288. Cows, 63; total value, \$759; average value, \$12.04. All other cattle, two years old and over, 16; total value, \$297; average value, \$18.56. Sheep, 42;

total value, \$62; average value, \$1.48. Swine, 18; total value, \$44; average value, \$2.44.

Vesta. Horses, under three years old, 3; total value, \$78; average value, \$26. Three years old and over, 24; total value, \$1,202; average value, \$50.08. Cattle, under two years old, \$2; average value, \$6.00; total value, \$12.00. All other cattle, two years old and over, 24; total value, \$366; average value, \$15.25. Mules and asses, 2; total value, \$20; average value, \$10.00. Sheep 202; total value, \$304; average value, \$1.50. Swine, 12; total value, \$18; average value, \$1.50.

Granite Rock. Horses, under three years old, 1; total value, \$26; average value, \$26; three years old and over, 20; total value, \$1,009; average value, \$50.45. Cattle, under two years old, 2; total value, \$12; average value, \$6.00. Cows, 7; total value, \$84; average value, \$12. All other cattle, three years old and over, 5; total value, \$123; average value, \$24.60. Mules and asses, 2; total value, \$100; average value, \$50. Swine, 2; total value, \$3; average value, \$1.50.

The year 1905 marked the close of the period of rapid growth. The figures for that year are as follows:

Horses, Mules and Asses. (Note—In 1879 the figures do not include mules and asses, the total in the county at that time being but 31, with an average value of \$52.45.) Total, 14,177 (as compared with 1,511 in 1878 and 5,979 in 1890). Under three years 1,986 (as compared with 236 in 1878 and 1,279 in 1890). Three years and over, 10,173 (as compared with 1,275 in 1878 and 4,701 in 1890). (Note—The 32 fine bred horses in the county in 1905 are not included in the age statistics.) One year old, 985 (as compared with 680 in 1890 and no record in 1878). Two years old, 1,001 (as compared with 598 in 1890 and no record in 1878). Stallions, fine bred mares and race horses, 32. (No record of fine bred horses in 1878 and 1890.)

Cattle. One year old, 6,474 (as compared with 4,736 in 1890 and 1,750, given as under two, in 1878). Two years old, 4,274 (as compared with 3,552 in 1890 and no record in 1878). Cows, 13,568 (as compared with 8,383 in 1890, and 2,465 given as cows two years old and over, 1878). All other cattle three years old and over, 788 (as compared with 569 in 1890). There is no direct comparison of "all other cattle three years old and over" for 1878, as the figure for that year is for "all other cattle two years old and over." In 1905 there were no oxen in the county (as compared with 222 in 1890, there being no record of oxen in 1878). The total cattle in the county in 1905 was 25,104 (as compared with 17,240 in 1890 and 5,998 in 1878).

Sheep, 3,821 (as compared with 8,028 in 1890 and 2,598 in 1878).

Swine, 11,869 (as compared with 2,729 in 1890 and 714 in 1878).

The total valuation at which agricultural personal property was assessed in Redwood county in 1905 was as follows: Horses, \$384,526; cattle, \$242,521; sheep, \$5,711; swine, \$35,507.

The average valuation at which agricultural personal property was assessed in Redwood county in 1905 was as follows: Horses, \$79.07; cattle, \$10.07; sheep, \$1.47; swine, \$2.99.

The year 1906 marked the beginning of the modern period.

In the county at this time there were a total of 12,314 horses, mules and asses; one year old, 1,007; two years old, 955; three years old and over, 10,322; fine bred horses, 30.

Cattle. One year old, 6,311; two years old, 4,270; cows, 13,654; all other cattle, 528; total, 24,758; sheep, 4,372. Swine, 1,158.

In 1916 there are in the county a total of 18,566 horses, mules and asses (as compared with 12,314 in 1906). Under one year, 1,086 (rural 1,052, urban 34); one year and under two years, 1,576 (rural 1,511, urban 65). Two years and under three years, 1,551 (rural 1,477, urban 74). Three years and over, 14,286 (rural 13,286, urban 1,000). Stallions, fine bred mares and horses, 67 (rural 42, urban 25).

There are 38,736 cattle (as compared with 24,758 in 1906). Under one year old, 9,647 (rural 9,482, urban 165). One year old and under two years, 8,313 (rural 8,151, urban 162). Two years and under three years, 4,804 (rural 4,745, urban 59). Cows, 14,953 (rural 14,419, urban 534). Bulls, 811 (rural 799, urban 12). All other cattle three years old and over, 208, all rural.

Sheep, 1,917 (as compared with 4,372 in 1906).

Swine, 11,581 (as compared with 19,480 in 1906). Of the 11,581 there are 18,601 in the rural district.

There are 2,339 dogs in the county of which 2,027 are in the country.

**Authority.** The assessment rolls of Redwood county in the custody of Redwood county auditor.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

**DITCHING.**

Artificial drainage through the medium of ditching is one of the means by which the presence of mankind in Redwood county has produced a marked change in the county's physical characteristics.

The surface of the county, for the most part, consists of level or gently rolling prairie. The depressions are often filled with water, and in wet seasons these sloughs and swamps increase to the size and aspect of small lakes. The natural drainage is inadequate and will continue so until the progress of the years has eroded deeper valleys for the streams. Artificial drainage is therefore the only solution of the problem.

Even in this regard, the solution is often difficult, as the slope of the land is sometimes insufficient to provide a suitable "drop" for the water gathered in the outlets.

Until 1906 there were no public ditches in Redwood county. A few trenches had been built for short distances beside some of the country roads, and here and there a farmer had dug a small ditch to drain a pool, or had laid a few tile in an effort to provide drainage for his barnyard.

In 1904, the county commissioners were asked to provide for the draining of the vicinity of Willow Lake. The petition was denied, on the ground that the cost would be greater than the benefits.

Then came 1905, with its excessive rains which continued for several years thereafter, during which many hitherto productive farms were given over to the muskrats and wild ducks. The need for artificial drainage being thus made imperative, a petition for a ditch in Sundown and Three Lakes township was granted in 1905, and the work started in 1906.

Since then the ditching has continued on an extensive scale. Johnsonville, which is drained by the Cottonwood and by Sleepy Eye creek, has no ditches. A petition for one is pending. Lamberton, drained by the Cottonwood, has no ditches. Springdale, drained by numerous branches of the Cottonwood, has no ditches, but a petition is pending. Honner, a small township on the Minnesota, has no ditches. Charlestown, drained by the Cottonwood, is touched by the artificial drainage system. Swedes Forest, lying along the Minnesota, is also touched slightly by the system. The other townships are well provided with ditches, though in some of them a still further development of the system is desirable.

Some of the ditches of Redwood county are open dredge

ditches. Some are entirely of tile. Others are a combination of tile and open ditches. One ditch, County Ditch No. 5, is a plow ditch, the only one of the kind in the county. It was made with a ditch plow to which were attached from eight to twenty horses.

The amount thus far expended in Redwood county for ditching is \$665,089.77. This has been paid out through the years as follows: 1906, \$332.28; 1907, \$15,649.10; 1908, \$85,788.71; 1909, \$93,585.37; 1910, \$80,583.00; 1911, \$68,380.93; 1912, \$31,555.95; 1913, \$51,909.35; 1914, \$63,692.06; 1915, \$84,605.32; half year ending July 31, 1916, \$89,007.70.

The ditches of the county have been inaugurated by two plans, the county ditches under the supervision of the county commissioners, and the judicial ditches under the supervision of the District court. The latter ditches are for the most part those extending into two or more counties, though some of them are entirely in one county. Owing to the fact that the judicial ditches are numbered in the counties in which the petition is presented to the court there is some duplication of numbers in the judicial ditches of Redwood county, this duplication sometimes resulting in more or less confusion.

So extensive has the ditching project in Redwood county become that the county commissioners in the summer of 1916 appointed an engineer to take the matter in hand.

County Ditch No. 1 was first projected in a petition drawn up April 15, 1904, and presented to the board of county commissioners on July 11, 1904, as the result of which an engineer was appointed to make an accurate survey of the line of a main ditch, outlet, and branch lines of a ditch through Willow Lake. June 20, 1905, the petition was denied.

County Ditch No. 2 is located in Sundown and Three Lakes townships. The petition, dated June 27, 1905, and filed on July 14, 1905, was presented to the board of county commissioners on August 21, 1905. It was ordered surveyed and the viewers were appointed on that day. The petition was granted and the order establishing the ditch was issued on January 4, 1906. Open.

County Ditch No. 3 is located in Three Lakes and Paxton townships. The petition, dated June 16, 1906, was presented to the county board on August 20, 1906. On June 21, 1907, the report of the engineer and the viewers was accepted, and the petition was granted. This ditch was completed October 8, 1908, approved on November 30, 1909. On May 11, 1916, a petition for repairs was filed. Open and tile.

County Ditch No. 4 is located in the townships of New Avon, Redwood Falls and Paxton, and the village of Redwood Falls. The petition was presented to the board on September 26, 1906. This ditch was completed September 23, 1908. On August 29, 1910, this ditch was inspected and final payments were made, it



being found that the ditch was entirely satisfactory. Applications for repairs on this have been twice dismissed. Open and tile.

County Ditch No. 5 is located in North Hero township. The petition, dated August 31, 1906, was presented to the board on November 2, 1906. On March 15, 1907, the report of the surveyors and viewers was declared void. The route of the ditch was changed a little and then the board proceeded to vote on granting the petition as corrected. The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote. Open. This is the only "plow" ditch in the county.

County Ditch No. 6 is located in the township of Paxton. The petition dated June 12, 1907, was presented to the board on July 8, 1907. On October 25, 1907, the report of the surveyors and viewers was accepted and the petition was granted. August 10, 1912, all the open work on County Ditch No. 6 was accepted after it had been inspected by the county board. The tile work was accepted on December 7, 1912. Open and tile.

County Ditch No. 7 is located in Willow Lake township. The petition, dated June 27, 1907, was presented to the county board on July 27, 1907. Viewers were appointed. The petition was granted January 18, 1908, after the reports of the surveyor and viewers had been accepted. On July 20, 1916, a petition for repairs was filed. Open.

County Ditch No. 8 was to be in the townships of Willow Lake and Charlestown. The petition was presented to the board on August 9, 1907. A surveyor and viewers were appointed. The petition was rejected but the proposed line of this ditch was made a part of Ditch No. 7.

County Ditch No. 9 is located in Three Lakes, Morgan and Sherman townships. The petition, dated August 10, 1907, and filed on August 12, 1907, was presented on September 10, 1907. Viewers were appointed on September 11, 1907. The reports were accepted and the petition granted June 26, 1908. The order establishing the ditch was issued on June 27, 1908. On July 11, 1910 this ditch was completed. On July 14, 1913, it was approved and accepted. On November 4, 1908, a petition to have the ditch dug deeper was filed and later, on June 22, 1915, a petition to have the ditch repaired was filed. Viewers for the latter were appointed on March 29, 1916. Open and tile.

County Ditch No. 10 is located in New Avon and Three Lakes townships. A petition, dated August 10, 1907, was presented September 16, 1907. The engineer's and viewers' reports were accepted and the petition was granted April 14, 1908. This ditch was finished Nov. 11, 1908. This ditch was approved with its branches on November 4, 1910. A petition for repairs was filed on May 11, 1916. Open and tile.

County Ditch No. 11 is located in Sheridan township. The petition was dated and filed on June 14, 1909, and was presented

to the board on July 8, 1909. Viewers and a surveyor were appointed. The reports were accepted and the petition was granted and the order establishing the ditch was issued on May 3, 1910. This ditch was approved on November 25, 1910. Tile.

County Ditch No. 12 is located in the townships of Delhi and Kintire. The petition, dated and filed June 14, 1909, was presented to the county board on July 9, 1909, and the viewers were appointed on that day. The reports were accepted and the petition was granted on May 3, 1910, the order establishing the ditch being issued on the same date. This ditch was finished July 10, 1911, and approved by the board. The final certificate of dredge work was accepted on August 26, 1915. Open and tile.

County Ditch No. 13 is located in the township of Granite Rock. The petition, dated and filed June 19, 1909, was presented to the board July 22, 1909. Viewers were appointed on that day. On September 16, 1909, the petition was granted and the order establishing the ditch was issued. This ditch was finished and approved on September 21, 1911. Open and tile.

County Ditch No. 14 is located in Morgan and Sherman townships. The petition, dated March 31, 1910, and filed on April 5, 1910, was presented to the board on May 3, 1910. The viewers were appointed on that same day. On July 11, 1910, the reports were accepted and the petition was granted. The order establishing the ditch was issued on July 12, 1910. This ditch was completed and accepted on Sept. 21, 1911. A petition for repairs was filed on May 11, 1916. Open and tile.

County Ditch No. 15 is located in Vesta township. The petition, dated May 9, 1910, and filed on May 11, 1910, was presented to the county board on June 10, 1910. Viewers were appointed on that day. The petition was granted on August 29, 1910, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on the same day. This ditch was accepted on November 27, 1911. Tile.

County Ditch No. 16 is located in Brookville. The petition, dated June 9, 1910, and filed June 13, 1910, was presented to the board on July 11, 1910. Viewers were appointed on July 13, 1910. The petition was granted on October 21, 1910, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on the same day. Tile.

County Ditch No. 17 is located in the township of Redwood Falls. The petition, dated Jan. 24, 1911, and filed on May 15, 1911, was presented to the board on June 12, 1911. Viewers were appointed on that day. The petition was granted on July 8, 1912, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on July 17, 1912. The petition was accepted, after being inspected, on Dec. 6, 1912. Tile.

County Ditch No. 18 is located in New Avon township. The petition was dated July 15, 1912, and presented to the board on Aug. 10, 1912, and viewers were appointed on that same date.

On Oct. 30, 1912, the reports were accepted and the petition was granted. This ditch was approved and paid for, on Jan. 9, 1914. Tile. A petition for repairs was filed on Aug. 27, 1915, and the viewers were appointed on March 28, 1916. The petition for repairs was dismissed Aug. 15, 1916.

County Ditch No. 19 is located in the township of Kintire. The petition, dated March 24, 1914, and filed on April 23, 1914, was presented to the board on June 3, 1914, and the viewers were appointed on the same date. The order establishing the ditch was issued on Aug. 25, 1914, and the ditch was accepted on December 3, 1914. Tile.

County Ditch No. 20 is located in townships of Delhi, Kintire and Swedes Forest. The petition was filed on Dec. 2, 1914. Viewers were appointed on Jan. 8, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on July 14, 1915. Tile. Under construction.

County Ditch No. 21 is located in Vail and Granite Rock townships. The petition was filed on June 1, 1915, viewers were appointed on July 13, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on March 8, 1916. Tile. Under construction.

County Ditch No. 22 is asked in Paxton, Redwood Falls and Three Lakes townships. The petition was filed on June 1, 1915. Viewers were appointed on July 13, 1915. No report has yet been rendered.

County Ditch No. 23 is located in New Avon, Sundown and Three Lakes townships. The petition was filed on June 29, 1915. Viewers were appointed on July 27, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on Jan. 13, 1916. Tile. Under construction.

County Ditch No. 24 is asked for New Avon, Three Lakes, Sundown, Morgan and Brookville townships. The petition was filed on July 6, 1915. Viewers were appointed on August 13, 1915. No report has yet been rendered.

County Ditch No. 25 is asked for Three Lakes and Sundown townships. The petition was filed on July 12, 1915. Viewers were appointed on August 13, 1915, and the order, establishing the West Main and branches thereto, was issued on June 8, 1916. The contract has not as yet been let.

County Ditch No. 26 is asked for New Avon, Willow Lake, Sundown and Three Lakes townships. The petition was filed on July 12, 1915. Viewers were appointed on Aug. 13, 1915. The ditch was ordered Aug. 18, 1916.

County Ditch No. 27 is located in Paxton township. The petition was filed on July 12, 1915. Viewers were appointed on Aug. 13, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch, was issued on Nov. 5, 1916. Tile. Under construction.

County Ditch No. 28 is located in North Hero township. The

petition was filed on July 15, 1915. Viewers were appointed on Aug. 13, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on May 11, 1916. Tile. Under construction.

County Ditch No. 29 is located in Waterbury township. The petition was filed on July 15, 1915. Viewers were appointed on Aug. 13, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on November 5, 1915. Tile. Under construction.

County Ditch No. 30 is asked for New Avon, Sheridan and Vail townships. The petition was filed on July 20, 1915. Viewers were appointed on August 25, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on May 9, 1916. The contract is not yet let.

County Ditch No. 31 was asked for Vail and Sheridan townships. The petition was filed on Aug. 21, 1915. Viewers were appointed on Sept. 24, 1915. June 9, 1916, at the request of the petitioners the proceedings were dropped.

County Ditch No. 32 is located in Springdale and Gales townships. The petition was filed on Aug. 30, 1915. Viewers were appointed on September 24, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on January 13, 1916. Tile. Under construction.

County Ditch No. 33 is asked for Vesta township. The petition was filed on Oct. 19, 1915. Viewers were appointed on November 26, 1915. This ditch is ordered but not let.

County Ditch No. 34 is asked for New Avon township. The petition was filed on Oct. 22, 1915. Viewers were appointed on Nov. 26, 1915. The matter of this ditch will be considered later, as there is still considerable doubt over the question of an outlet.

County Ditch No. 35 is asked for Vesta township. The petition was filed on October 26, 1915. Viewers were appointed on Dec. 15, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on June 9, 1916. The contract is not yet let. This ditch replaces Judicial Ditches Nos. 10 and 19.

County Ditch No. 36 was asked for Vail township. The petition was filed on Oct. 26, 1915. Viewers were appointed on Dec. 15, 1915. Dismissed. This marks the third attempt to establish this ditch, the dismissed petitions for Judicial Ditches Nos. 11 and 20 covering the same territory.

County Ditch No. 37 is located in Granite Rock township. The petition was filed on Nov. 3, 1915. Viewers were appointed on Dec. 15, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on May 11, 1916. Tile. Under construction.

County Ditch No. 38 is asked for Sundown and Willow Lake townships. The petition was filed Dec. 18, 1915. Viewers were appointed on January 13, 1916. No report has yet been rendered.

County Ditch No. 39 is asked for Kintire township. The petition was filed on May 8, 1916. Viewers were appointed on June 9, 1916. The viewers have not yet reported.

Tile Ditch No. 40 is asked for Delhi township. The petition

was filed on May 15, 1916. Viewers were appointed on June 8, 1916. The viewers have not yet reported.

Tile Ditch No. 41 is asked for Springdale township. The petition was filed on May 22, 1916. Viewers were appointed July 5, 1916. The viewers have not as yet reported.

County Ditch No. 42 is asked for North Hero township. The petition was filed on June 12, 1916. Viewers were appointed on July 14, 1916. No report has yet been rendered.

County Ditch No. 43 is asked for Johnsonville, North Hero and Springdale townships. The petition was filed on July 3, 1916. Engineers and viewers were appointed Aug. 15, 1916.

Judicial Ditch No. 1 of Brown and Redwood counties is located in Three Lakes, Morgan and Brookville townships and in Brown county. The order establishing the ditch was issued June 25, 1908. The contract for dredge work was let Aug. 19, 1908, and for the tile work May 17, 1910. Nov. 27, 1911, the ditch was finished and approved. Tile.

Judicial Ditch No. 1 of Redwood and Brown counties is located in Morgan township and in Brown county. It was established by an order of Aug. 3, 1908. The contract was let April 19, 1910. Open and tile.

Judicial Ditch No. 2 of Redwood county is located in New Avon and Willow Lake townships. The order establishing the ditch was issued Jan. 9, 1909. The contract for dredge work was let March 5, 1909, and for tile work April 12, 1909. Nov. 30, 1909, the ditch was inspected and approved. The tile work on this ditch was finished July 12, 1911. Tile and open. This ditch will be amalgamated in county Ditch No 26, ordered by the county commissioners Aug. 18, 1916.

Judicial Ditch No. 3 of Lyon, Yellow Medicine and Redwood counties is located in Underwood township, and Lyon and Yellow Medicine counties. The order establishing the ditch was issued March 11, 1908. Open.

Judicial Ditch No. 3 of Redwood county is located in Sundown township. The order establishing the ditch was issued May 6, 1908. The contract for tile work on this ditch was let May 23, 1908, and for plow work was let June 11, 1908. Open and tile. The territory embraced in this ditch area will be drained eventually as a part of County Ditch No. 24.

Judicial Ditch No. 4 of Redwood county is located in Waterbury township. The order establishing the ditch was issued Sept. 10, 1908. The contract for construction of ditch was let March 2, 1909. Tile.

Judicial Ditch No. 5 of Brown and Redwood counties is projected in Brookville township and Brown county. The petition was filed Sept. 24, 1915. Open. The engineers have not as yet reported on this ditch.

Judicial Ditch No. 5 of Redwood county is located in New Avon and Redwood Falls townships. The order establishing the ditch was issued May 1, 1909. The contract for construction of the ditch was let March 2, 1910. May 14, 1912, the open work on this ditch was approved and paid for.

Judicial Ditch No. 6 of Redwood county is located in Redwood Falls townships. The order establishing the ditch was issued May 3, 1909. The contract for the construction of the ditch was let Aug. 5, 1909. Tile.

Judicial Ditch No. 7 of Redwood county is located in the township of Willow Lake. The order establishing the ditch was issued May 4, 1909. The contract was let July 13, 1909. Nov. 30, 1909, this ditch was inspected and approved. Tile.

Judicial Ditch No. 8 of Redwood and Yellow Medicine counties was to be in Underwood township and Yellow Medicine county. The petition was filed May 19, 1909. Dismissed.

Judicial Ditch No. 8 of Lyon and Redwood counties was to be in Gales township and Lyon county. The petition was filed Jan. 20, 1910. Dismissed.

Judicial Ditch No. 9 of Redwood county is located in Gales township. The order establishing the ditch was issued Jan. 12, 1911. Tile.

Judicial Ditch No. 10 of Redwood county was asked for Vail township. The petition was filed Nov. 9, 1911. The action was dismissed. County Ditch No. 36 was later projected in the same territory but was dismissed.

Judicial Ditch No. 11 of Redwood county was asked for Vesta township. The petition was filed Nov. 9, 1911. Dismissed. County Ditch No. 35 will cover the same territory.

Judicial Ditch No. 11 of Redwood and Lyon counties is located in townships 111-40 and 110-40 in Lyon, and Gales and Westline in Redwood. The order establishing the ditch was issued on Dec. 3, 1915.

Judicial Ditch No. 12 of Redwood and Lyon counties is located in Gales and Amiret townships. The petition was filed on June 3, 1912. On Oct. 13, 1913, the ditch was approved and ordered paid for. Tile.

Judicial Ditch No. 13 of Lyon and Redwood counties will enter Springdale township and Lyon county. The petition was presented Dec. 27, 1915, and the viewers report rendered July 1, 1916. Action is still pending.

Judicial Ditch No. 13 of Redwood county is located in Vail township. The petition was filed on Dec. 22, 1913, and the order of court establishing the ditch was issued on September 18, 1914. Tile.

Judicial Ditch No. 14 of Lyon and Redwood counties is in Lyon county and Gales township. The petition was presented

March 27, 1916, and the engineers appointed July 29, 1916. Action is still pending.

Judicial Ditch No. 14 of Redwood and Lyon counties is in Lyon county and Westline township. The petition was filed on Dec. 24, 1913. The order of court establishing the ditch was issued on January 13, 1915. Open and tile. Now under construction.

Judicial Ditch No. 15 of Redwood and Lyon counties is in Lyon county and Westline township. The petition was filed on March 23, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on March 11, 1916. Open and tile.

Judicial Ditch No. 16 of Redwood county is located in New Avon and Willow Lake townships. The petition was filed on March 23, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on January 18, 1916. Tile. Now under construction.

Judicial Ditch No. 17 of Redwood and Brown counties will be in Morgan township and Brown county. The petition was filed on May 4, 1915, and the order establishing the ditch was issued on July 15, 1916. Open and tile. Ordered but not let.

Judicial Ditch No. 18 of Redwood and Brown counties will be in Morgan township and Brown county. The petition was filed on May 14, 1915. The order establishing the ditch was issued on July 15, 1916. Open and tile. Ordered but not let.

Judicial Ditches Nos. 19 and 20 of Redwood county. Petition for Judicial Ditches Nos. 10 and 11 were dismissed on a technicality. Petitions for Judicial Ditches Nos. 19 and 20 were then filed covering the same territory. The judge refused to grant the petition, the policy of the court being to leave ditches wholly in one county in the hands of the commissioners. Petitions were later presented for County Ditches Nos. 35 and 36, covering the same territory. Ditch 35 will be built, while the petition for Ditch 36 was dismissed.

Judicial Ditch No. 21 of Redwood and Yellow Medicine counties. The petition was filed on February 4, 1916. Dismissed.

Judicial Ditch No. 22 of Redwood and Lyon Counties is asked for sections 19 and 30 of Gales and touching Lyon county. The petition was filed on June 28, 1916. Action is still pending.

**Authority.** Records of the county commissioners' proceedings (manuscript) in the custody of the county auditor of Redwood county.

Annual financial statements of Redwood county (printed pamphlets).

Ditching records of Redwood county (manuscript) in the custody of the county auditor of Redwood county.

Personal testimony of L. P. Larson, county auditor of Redwood county.



## CHAPTER XXV.

**PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS**

The physician, especially in a pioneer community, comes more intimately in contact with the social life of the people than any other man. He sees household life as it is without the veneer that is often put on for other visitors. His advice as to sanitation of the home and surroundings is acted upon. In the early days he, the preacher, the teacher and the lawyer were the only highly educated men in the community. He was a leader in intellect and public opinion, as well as the healer of bodies and minds.

A great writer has said: "Men most nearly resemble the gods when they afford health to their fellow-men." In an age when, in the combat of man against man, and nation against nation, destruction is rife through the world, it is inspiration to pay tribute to those devoted souls who are laboring to preserve mankind and bring it to the highest degree of physical efficiency.

Jenner, Pasteur and Lister are more to be honored than all the great warriors.

"The first anaesthetic has done more for the real happiness of mankind than all the philosophers from Socrates to Mills. Society laurels the soldier and the philosopher, and practically ignores the physician except in the hour when it needs him to minister to its physical ills. Few remember his labors, for what Sir Thomas Browne said three hundred years ago is surely true: "The iniquity of oblivion blindly scattereth her poppy and deals with the memory of men without distinction to merit to perpetuity."

"Medicine is the most cosmopolitan of the three great 'learned' professions. Medicine never built a prison or lit a fagot, never incited men to battle or crucified anyone. Saint and sinner, white, black, rich and poor, are equal and alike when they cross the sacred portals of the temple of Æsculapius." No other secular profession has ever reached such a consciousness of duties which it corporately owes to the rest of the world. What are the principles which a profession, more profuse in its disinterested charities than any other profession in the world, has established for its guidance?

It was about 2,300 years ago that the practitioners of the art of healing began to take an oath, emphasizing responsibilities which the nobility and holiness of the art imposed upon them. Hippocrates, forever to be revered, gave the oath his name. When a Greek physician took the Hippocratic oath, and a graduate of the modern medical school takes it, the act is one not only of obligation for himself, but of recognition of a great benefactor of mankind. The Hippocratic oath assumes that when a man

has learned the art of restoring the sick to health he has passed into a realm in which the rules of personal selfishness are immediately abridged, if not expunged; and he is received in a system of principles and rules governing all licensed physicians, and enforced and respected by high-minded and cultured gentlemen—a standard of professional honor so sacred and inviolate that no graduate or regular practitioner will ever presume or dare to violate it.

Robert Louis Stevenson, seeing the life of the medical man only from without, was not far wrong when he spoke of the modern scientific medical man as probably the noblest figure of the age. The noble and exalted character of the ancient profession of medicine is surpassed by no sister science in the magnificence of its gifts. Reflecting upon its purity, beneficence and grandeur, it must be accorded to be the noblest of professions. Though the noblest of professions, it is the meanest of trades. The true physician will make his profession no trade, but will be accurate in diagnosis and painstaking in prescribing. He will allow no prejudice nor theory to interfere with the relief of human suffering and the saving of human life; and will lay under contribution every source of information, be it humble or exalted, that can be made useful in the cure of disease. He will be kind to the poor, sympathetic with the sick, ethical toward medical colleagues, and courteous toward all men.

The true physician is he who has a proper conception and estimation of the real character of his profession; whose intellectual and moral fitness gives weight, standing and character in the consideration and estimation of society and the public at large. His privileges and powers for good or for evil are great; in fact, no other profession, calling or vocation in this life occupies such a delicate relation to the human family.

There is a tremendous developing and educating power in medical work. The medical man is almost the only member of the community who does not make money out of his important discoveries. It is a point of honor with him to allow the whole world to profit by his researches when he finds a new remedy for disease. The greatest and best medical and surgical discoveries and inventions have been free gifts to suffering humanity the moment their value was demonstrated. The reward of the physician is in the benefit which the sick and helpless receive, and in the gratitude, which should not be stinted, of the community at large. Medical men are not angels; they are, in fact, very human creatures with hard work to do, and often many mouths to feed; but there is a strain of benevolence in all their work. From the beginning they are taught a doctrine of helpfulness to others, and are made to think that their life-work should not be one in which every service must receive its pecun-

itary reward. The physician is a host in himself, a natural leader among his fellowmen, a center of influence for the most practical good, an efficient helper in times of direct need, a trusted and honest citizen. What more can any prophet ask than honor in his own country and a daily welcome among his own friends?

It does not take long for the waves of oblivion to close over those who have taken a most prominent and active part in the affairs of the day. The life of the pioneer doctor is no exception to this law, for, as Dr. John Browne tells us, "It is the lot of the successful medical practitioner to be invaluable when alive, and to be forgotten soon after he is dead; and this is not altogether or chiefly from any special ingratitude or injustice on the part of mankind, but from the very nature of the case." However, the pioneer physician still lives in memory of many of us, though he is now more rare as an individual than in the years gone by, and is gradually passing out of existence.

The history, written and unwritten, of the pioneer physician in Redwood county, as elsewhere, presents him to view as working out the destiny of the wilderness, hand in hand with the other forces of civilization for the common good. He was an integral part of the primitive social fabric. As such he shared the manners, the customs, and the ambitions of his companions, and he, with them, was controlled by the forces which determine the common destiny. The chief concern of himself and companions was materially engaged with the serious problem of existence. The struggle to survive was, at its best, a competition with nature. Hard winters, poor roads were the chief impediments. Only rough outlines remain of the heroic and adventurous side of the pioneer physician's long, active and honored life. The imagination cannot, unaided by the facts, picture the primitive condition he had to contend with. Long and dreary rides, by day and night, in summer's heat and winter's cold, through snow and mud and rain, was his common lot. He trusted himself to the mercy of the elements, crossed unbridged streams, made his way through uncut forests, and traveled the roadless wilderness. He spent one-fifth of his life in his conveyance, and in some cases traveled as many as two hundred thousand miles in the same.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes has graphically described the old doctor's daily routine: "Half a dollar a visit—drive, drive, drive all day; get up in the night and harness your own horse—drive again ten miles in a snowstorm; shake powders out of a vial—drive back again, if you don't happen to be stuck in a drift; no home, no peace, no continuous meals, no unbroken sleep, no Sunday, no holiday, no social intercourse, but eternal jog, jog, jog in a sulky."

He always responded to the call of the poor, and gave freely his services to those who could not pay without hardships. Who

can narrate the past events in the life of such a man? His deeds were "written upon the tablet of loving and grateful hearts, and the hearts are now dust. The long and exhausting rides through storm, or mud, or snow; the exposure to contagions; the patient vigils by the bedside of pain; the kindly deeds of charity; the reassuring messages to the despondent; the shielding of the innocent; the guarding of secrets; the numberless self-abnegations that cannot be tabulated, and are soon forgotten, like the roses of yesterday." Wealth did not flow into the old practitioner's coffers; in fact, he needed no coffers. He was a poor collector, and with all his efforts he obtained but little, and never what was his due. As an offset to the generally acknowledged abilities of the old doctor in every other line of his work, it must be admitted that he was greatly deficient in business tact. Often content with the sentiment of apparent appreciation of services rendered to his patrons, of lives saved, of sufferings assuaged, and of health restored, he was too easily satisfied with the reflection that he had a very noble profession, but a very poor trade.

Though poor in purse, he was rich in heart, in head, and in public esteem. He made at least a very measurable success of life, if success consists in being of some small use to the community or country in which one live; if it consists in having an intelligent, sympathetic outlook for human needs; if it is success to love one's work; if it is success to have friends and be a friend, then the old doctor has made a success of life.

He was a lonely worker, and relied largely on his own unaided observation for his knowledge. Isolated by conditions of his life, he did not know the educating influences of society work. He was a busy man, with little leisure for indulgence of literary or other tastes. He possessed, however, what no books or laboratories can furnish, and that is: a capacity for work, willingness to be helpful, broad sympathies, honesty, and a great deal of common sense. His greatest fame was the fealty of a few friends; his recompense a final peace at life's twilight hour. He was a hard-working man, beloved and revered by all. He was discreet and silent, and held his counsel when he entered the sick-room. In every family he was indispensable, important, and oftentimes a dignified personage. He was the adviser of the family in matters not always purely medical. As time passed, the circle of his friends enlarged, his brain expanded, and his heart steadily grew mellow. Could all the pleasant, touching, heroic incidents be told in connection with the old doctor, it would be a revelation to the young physician of today; but he can never know the admiration and love in which the old doctor was held. "How like an angel light was his coming in the stormy midnight to the lonely cabin miles away from the nearest neigh-

bor. Earnest, cheery, confident, his presence lightened the burden, took away the responsibility, dispelled the gloom. The old doctor, with his two-wheeled gig and saddlebags, his setons, crude herbs, and venesections, resourceful, brave and true; busy, blunt and honest loyally doing his best—who was physician surgeon, obstetrician, oculist, aurist, guide, philosopher and friend—is sleeping under the sod of the pioneer region he loved so well.”

“We shall ne’er see his like again;  
Not a better man was found  
By the Crier on his round  
Through the town.”

During the winter of 1864-65 there was no physician in the Stockade at Redwood Falls. The nearest medico was at Ft. Ridgely, where an army surgeon was stationed.

Dr. D. L. Hitchcock reached the Stockade with his family early in the summer of 1865, and became the first physician in the county. He was joined in 1870 by Dr. W. D. Flinn.

For many years these two physicians ministered to the needs of the pioneers. The story of their experiences, riding over the trackless prairies to isolated cabins far beyond the limits of the county, braving the heat and mosquitoes of summer, and the bitter storms of winter, sometimes forced to spend the night in some abandoned shanty, bringing healing in their little black bags, their clever hands, and their skilled brains, would make a volume of pioneer life well worth the writing.

These two pioneers were friends and often in severe cases they traveled together, sharing sympathy, companionship and advice.

Contemporaries of Drs. Hitchcock and Flinn were Dr. J. B. Wellcome, of Sleepy Eye; Dr. T. H. Sherwin, of Beaver Falls; Dr. Henry Schoregge, of Henryville (Renville county), and Dr. C. S. Knapp, of Cairo (Renville county). Each of these men had some small practice in the edges of Redwood county.

The pioneer doctors of Redwood county had many interesting experiences. Dr. Hitchcock and Dr. Flynn endured hardships trying both to mind and body. One of their thrilling adventures took place during the blizzard of 1873. A man near Wood Lake had frozen his feet and an amputation was necessary. Accordingly, Dr. Hitchcock and Dr. Flynn started out across the prairie with the necessary implements. While they were on their trip the wind suddenly changed, the snow began to fall so thickly that they could not see their horses’ heads in front of them and they were finally forced to take refuge in a cabin a mile before reaching the residence of their patient. For three days they were snowed up in this cabin. On the third day by much effort they broke the way through to their patient’s house, performed the

necessary operation and returned to their homes in Redwood Falls where their families had undergone much anxiety as to their fate.

The Redwood Falls directory of 1878 gives three physicians, W. D. Flinn, W. M. Evans and M. W. Vilos, as practicing in Redwood Falls at that time. In 1880 the name of C. S. Stoddard appears. Drs. Flinn and Stoddard appear in the lists of 1884, and the name of A. G. Hammer is added. In 1886, the Redwood Falls physicians were W. D. Flinn and Frederick H. Morton. In 1888 the names of Giles R. Pease and Hazen W. Wells first appear. W. D. Flinn and Giles R. Pease were the Redwood Falls physicians in 1892. C. P. Gibson was added to the list in 1894. A. B. Hawes appears on the list in 1896, the other three physicians being Drs. Flinn, Pease and Gibson. In 1900 the name of Henry E. Schlegel first appears, and in 1902 the name of W. A. Palmer is seen. W. Beet and William Corpron are new names in 1904. W. A. Brand first appears in the directory in 1906. The Redwood Falls physicians in 1908 were F. P. Boyd, W. A. Brand, C. P. Gibson and G. P. Pease. The name of A. G. Chadbourn first appears in 1912. In the same year appears the firm of Pease & Flinn, T. E. Flinn having started practice with Giles R. Pease. In 1914 the four physicians were W. A. Brand, C. P. Gibson, Giles R. Pease and T. E. Flinn. Drs. Brand, Pease and Flinn are the present practitioners.

A distinct stride in the history of medicine and surgery in Redwood county was the erection in 1915 at Redwood Falls, of a splendid hospital, fitted with all the latest appliances and excellently equipped in all the departments usually appertaining to a modern hospital. The building is pleasantly located and is one of the city's most sightly structures. It was erected by Drs. Giles R. Pease and T. E. Flinn, these gentlemen being the present supervising physicians and surgeons of the institution.

F. V. Crandall was the first physician in Lamberton. Lemont S. Crandall, a physician there for some twenty years, first appears in the directory of 1882. Christopher Queolis first appears in 1888. In 1894 the Lamberton physicians were L. S. Crandall, J. G. Ellis and A. F. Gooslee. In 1896 the name of J. C. R. Charest appears in place of A. F. Gooslee. In 1900 the Lamberton physicians were L. S. Crandall and C. P. Nelson. In 1912 the physicians there were George W. Boot, L. S. Crandall and Charles C. Walker. For a time, Louis O. Clements was the first physician, his name first appearing in 1904. The name of Charles C. Walker first appears in 1908, and the name of Dirk V. Gleysteen in 1914. Drs. Walber and Gleysteen are the present practitioners.

The first physician in Walnut Grove was R. W. Hoyt. The name of H. B. Van Buskirk, for several years the only physician in the village, first appears in the directories of 1884. The name of Charles I. Remington first appears in 1900, the name of Robert

H. Ray in 1902, and the name of E. Lawrence Meyer in 1906. The name of the present practitioner, Earl Jamieson, first appears in 1908.

A. Bickford was the first physician in Milroy. He was followed by Frank J. Bickford. Then for several years there was no permanent resident physician. The name of Bjarne Rvan, the present practitioner of Milroy, first appears in the directories of 1914.

The first physician in Morgan was James L. Adams, who is still practicing there. The name of David R. Butler appears in the directories of 1900.

O. A. Case was the first physician in Sanborn. The name of John Hobinecht first appears in the directories of 1896; John J. Platt in 1898; George W. Boot in 1900; Oscar E. Bennett in 1902; William G. Richards in 1906, and Arthur L. Kusske in 1908. The name of the present practitioner, Monte C. Piper first appears in 1916.

The first physician in Revere was Ernest R. Jellison. The name of Lars P. Solsness appears in 1906. There is now no physician in Revere.

Mrs. Rebecca Shoemaker appears in the directories of North Redwood as a practicing physician for the years 1900-1912 inclusive.

E. R. Jellison was the first physician in Seaforth, moving there shortly after the coming of the railroad. He left not long after, and there has since been no permanent resident physician.

The first physician in Vesta was Frank D. Gray who practiced there some eight years. The name of Roy A. Peterson, the present practitioner, first appears in the directories of 1912.

Willis W. Creswell was the first physician in Delhi, his name first appearing in the directories of 1904. The name of F. A. Carrell appears in 1912. There is now no physician in the village.

The first physicians in Wabasso were Alf. G. Chadbourn and H. E. Lucas. The name of Gilbert L. Goslee first appears in the directories in 1906. In 1912 the names of Frank W. Brey and H. G. Bickford appear. Dr. Brey is the present practitioner of Wabasso.

The physicians of Belview are F. A. Aldrich and Emma S. Aldrich. The first physician was H. P. Dredge, whose name first appears in the directories of 1898. The name of Thore N. Thoreson appears in 1914.

Following are the physicians whose certificates are recorded with the Redwood county clerk of court:

Wm. D. Flinn, graduated from the Rush Medical College in Illinois in 1868. He received his certificate from the medical board of the state Jan. 22, 1884, and filed it for record in this county May 3, 1884.



Frederick H. Morton, graduated from the Rush Medical College in the state of Illinois. He received his certificate from the medical board of the state on April 28, 1884, and filed it for record in this county May 3, 1884.

Giles R. Pease graduated from the medical department of the University of Michigan. He received his certificate from the state on Sept. 12, 1885, and filed it for record in this county on March 7, 1888.

C. P. Gibson graduated from the Chicago Medical College in the state of Illinois. He received his certificate from the state on April 19, 1884, and filed it for record in this county on April 7, 1888.

Henry E. Schlegel received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 10, 1897, and filed it for record in this county on June 24, 1897.

William Algernon Brand received his certificate from the medical board of the state on July 1, 1904, and filed it for record in this county on July 15, 1904.

Walter A. Palmer received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 22, 1899, and filed it for record in this county on Feb. 7, 1900.

Alfred G. Chadbourn received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 19, 1900. He filed it for record in this county on July 26, 1900.

Thomas Edwin Flinn received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Jan. 25, 1911, and filed it for record in this county May 5, 1911.

Wallace E. Belt was given his certificate by the medical board of the state on Jan. 16, 1903, and filed it for record in this county on Jan. 21, 1903.

Stephen D. Sour received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 9, 1896, and filed it for record in this county June 4, 1904. He graduated from Hamline university in St. Paul, Minn.

C. P. Nelson received his certificate from the medical board of the state April 11, 1899. He filed it for record in this county on July 14, 1900.

Gilbert L. Goslee received his certificate from the medical board of the state Oct. 3, 1904, and filed it for record in this county Oct. 7, 1904. He graduated from the Keokuk College of Physicians and Surgeons.

G. W. Boot received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Oct. 11, 1898, and filed it for record on Dec. 15, 1898.

Lucian Orville Clement, received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 20, 1902, and filed it for record in this county on July 18, 1902.

L. S. Crandall received his certificate from the medical board of the state Nov. 28, 1883, and filed it for record in this county on Jan. 3, 1884.

Dirk Gleysteen received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Jan. 17, 1912, and filed it for record in this county on March 4, 1912.

Charles C. Walker received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 9, 1896, and filed it for record in this county on Feb. 14, 1903.

Frank D. Gray received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Feb. 28, 1887, and filed it for record in this county on Feb. 19, 1904.

Earl Jamieson received his certificate from the Minnesota state board of medical examiners on Oct. 11, 1907, and filed it for record in this county Jan. 15, 1908.

Robert H. Ray received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Oct. 11, 1900. He filed it for record in this county on Oct. 15, 1900.

Chas. L. Remington received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Jan. 16, 1884, and filed it for record in this county on Feb. 18, 1899.

Bjarne Rvan received his certificate from the medical board of the state on April 19, 1911, and filed it for record in this county on May 6, 1911.

James L. Adams received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Jan. 6, 1893, and filed it for record in this county on Feb. 17, 1893.

Ernest R. Jellison received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 8, 1901, and filed it for record in this county on Oct. 7, 1901.

Arthur Louis Kusske received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 13, 1907, and filed it for record in this county on Sept. 26, 1907.

O. E. Bennett received his certificate from the medical board of the state on April 12, 1901, and filed it for record in this county on May 4, 1901.

William Geo. Richards received his certificate from the medical board of the state on July 1, 1904. He filed it for record in this county on May 31, 1905.

Monte Charles Piper received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 29, 1910, and filed it for record in this county on Jan. 16, 1912.

John Habenicht graduated from the medical university at Prague, Bohemia, in Europe. He received his certificate from the medical board of the state June 25, 1887, and filed it for record in this county on March 8, 1895.

Roy Albert Peterson received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Jan. 25, 1911. He filed it for record in this county on April 21, 1911.

Herman E. Lucas received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Oct. 23, 1883, and filed it for record in this county on June 21, 1900.

Frank W. Brey received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 29, 1910, and filed it for record in this county on May 6, 1911.

H. G. Bickford received his certificate from the medical board of the state on April 12, 1901, and filed it for record in this county on Feb. 12, 1910.

Thore Nels Thoreson received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Oct. 12, 1897, and filed it for record in this county on July 5, 1913.

H. P. Dredge received his certificate from the medical board of the state June 9, 1896. It was filed on July 28, 1896, for record in this county. It was also filed for record on Oct. 30, 1901.

Frederick Herrick Aldrich was given his certificate by the medical board of the state on June 20, 1902, and filed it for record in this county on August 22, 1902.

Edward W. Gag received his certificate from the medical board of the state on Jan. 15, 1904, and filed it for record in this county on Feb. 11, 1904.

George P. Wilkinson received his certificate from the medical board of the state on April 17, 1903, and filed it for record in this county on July 30, 1904.

Hazen W. Wells, graduated from the Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago in the state of Illinois. He received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 29, 1887, and filed it for record in this county on July 1, 1887.

Henry C. Way graduated from the college of physicians and surgeons, Keokuk, in the state of Iowa. He received his certificate from the medical board of Minnesota on April 15, 1887, and filed it for record in this county on April 30, 1887.

Raymond W. Whittier received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 26, 1912, and filed it for record in this county on Aug. 20, 1915.

Emma L. Scholz received her certificate from the Minnesota state board of medical examiners on June 20, 1902, and filed it for record in this county April 4, 1907.

John Stevens, Jr., received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 10, 1897, and filed it for record in this county on July 25, 1905.

E. Lawrence Meyer received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 17, 1905, and filed it for record in this county Aug. 21, 1905.

Joseph Clement Micheal received his certificate from the state medical board on June 20, 1913, and filed it for record in this county July 26, 1913.

John F. Landry graduated from the medical department of Laval university in Canada. He received his certificate from the medical board of the state on April 22, 1884, and filed it for record in this county Jan. 15, 1889.

John Edward Doran received his certificate from the medical board of the state on June 16, 1898, and filed it for record in this county on June 5, 1902.

Wilhelm S. Anderson received his certificate from the medical board of the state June 19, 1903, and filed it for record in this county on March 16, 1904.

The Brown-Redwood County Medical Society holds its regular meetings January and June, the annual meeting being in January. Dr. M. C. Piper, of Sanborn, is president, and Dr. G. F. Reineke, of New Ulm, secretary. The following are the members: J. L. Adams, New Ulm; W. A. Brand, Redwood Falls; L. A. Fritsche, New Ulm; D. Gleysteen, Lamberton; F. D. Gray, Marshall; D. A. Herron, Comfrey; Earl Jamieson, Walnut Grove; M. A. Kiefer, Sleepy Eye; A. L. Kusske, Hutchinson; W. A. Meierding, Springfield; R. A. Peterson, Vesta; Bjarne Ravn, Milroy; J. C. Rothenburg, Springfield; J. L. Schoch, New Ulm; O. J. Seifert, New Ulm; J. S. Shrader, Springfield; O. C. Strickler, New Ulm; Mathias Sundt, Hanska; J. H. Vogel, New Ulm; C. C. Walker, Lamberton; G. B. Weiser, New Ulm; J. W. B. Wellcome, Sleepy Eye.

(Since the above was in type, Dr. Earl Jamieson of Walnut Grove has succeeded Dr. Piper as president. Dr. Kusske has removed to Hutchinson. New members are T. F. Hammermeister of New Ulm and F. A. Strickler of Sleepy Eye.)

**Authority.** R. L. Polk's Northwestern Gazetteer, 1876-1916.

George C. Wellner in History of Goodhue County, Minnesota, 1910.

Personal testimony of Mrs. D. L. Hitchcock.

F. L. Puffer in History of Renville County, Minnesota, 1916.

Register of Medical Certificates in the custody of the Redwood county clerk of court.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

**NEWSPAPERS OF REDWOOD COUNTY.**

The first settlers of Redwood county came from a stock in which there was a general desire for knowledge, and with the desire for knowledge there was a call for the printing press, and with the printing press there came the call for a newspaper long before the county itself, by virtue of a small population, was able to sustain in proper form the publication of the newspaper.

With the first settlement of Redwood Falls, the first town in the county, the early settlers had plenty of work to do for the time being in erecting a stockade, in erecting homes, and in preparing a defense against a possible attack from the not then too friendly Indians, and in addition to obtaining from the soil, as well as from the hunt, and from the timber nearby, sufficient to maintain a livelihood until more prosperous times should arrive.

But with all these manifold duties, the settlers never forgot that they were a part of the outside world. So the spare hours of these pioneers were spent on the street corners, or on the benches in front of one or two of the establishments of that period, in discussing past events, not only those that had passed weeks before throughout the United States and the rest of the world, and which had reached this important frontier post through belated newspapers, but also in the late happenings that occurred in the little community. Growing out of these corner curbstome meetings, there came a desire for something like a newspaper, and in the restless breast of Col. Sam. McPhail, the founder of the townsite of Redwood Falls, this desire became intense, not only by reason of his wish to boom Redwood Falls and Redwood county, but probably from that other desire to "play even" (if such a term may be used) with some of the settlers who had "riled" his spirit or had played some inexcusable joke upon the old Mexican War veteran.

As a result of this feeling there appeared on the streets of the then sparsely populated village on March 23, 1866, a paper known as the Redwood Falls Patriot. This was a small folio newspaper, but very little larger than ordinary legal cap, but it was brim full of the pointed thrusts characteristic of the old Colonel. The paper was printed in St. Peter, from the press of Thomas M. Perry, himself an original character of Nicollet county, and his name appeared as proprietor of the paper, and Col. Sam McPhail as editor. This issue of the Patriot contained some business advertising, but none of the latter pertained to the business institutions of Redwood Falls. The news columns contained the pleasing information that "Redwood Falls was destined to be-

come the half-way house between New York and San Francisco," and that its future was destined to be great. Here and there appeared an allusion to some of the settlers having paid nocturnal visits to the tents of the Indians camped just across the river, and intimating that unless there was a general let-up on the attacks on the editor, the Patriot would be obliged to continue the expose. Politically the Patriot was a strenuous Republican sheet, seeing the county's safety by alone keeping the Republican party in power. It boosted Redwood county real estate, and that controlled by Col. McPhail, in particular. The editor apparently came to the conclusion that the few issues could not be improved upon and that rather than have a failure by many and subsequent issues, the Patriot should "die aborning," and the few random issues ceased apparently with the issue of April 27, 1869, which contained the delinquent tax list.

**The Redwood Falls Mail.** The first bona fide newspaper was the Redwood Falls Mail, the first issue of which appeared more than three years after the Patriot made its appearance, or to be exact, on Sept. 25, 1869, over 48 years ago. The printing press and material were brought to Redwood Falls on one of the several steamboats that plied between St. Paul and Riverside, located two miles from Redwood Falls on the Minnesota river. During the summer season of this year, and for several years thereafter, the editor was V. C. Seward, who was full of wit and originality, and who, from its first appearance, made the Mail an exceptionally lively paper. It was a seven-column folio and the first issue proclaimed itself to be the official paper for Redwood, Renville, Lac qui Parle, Big Stone, Pipestone, Murray and Cottonwood counties. It was, in fact, the only newspaper published in all this vast territory. One side of the paper was printed at Milwaukee and the patents were shipped to Redwood Falls for final printing. The paper was Republican, and the first number had the Republican state ticket at the head of its first column, with the name of Horace Austin hoisted for governor and proposing the Hon. Schuyler Colfax for president in 1872. The salutatory said in part: "Scorning all narrow minded local jealousy we shall aim to promote the material welfare, not of this place and county solely, but of this entire section of the state, which we consider, in many respects, the finest portion of the great West."

The advertisements in the first edition were from St. Peter, Mankato, New Ulm and St. Paul business houses, those from Redwood Falls only being the advertisements of H. Behnke & Bro., dry goods, groceries, clothing, etc.; Redwood Mills by Worden & Ruter; W. H. Sigler, druggist and insurance agent; W. L. Eaton, hardware and tinware; and Peter Ortt, livery stable. Mr. Ortt advertised that he ran two stage lines, one to

Lynd, now in Lyon county, leaving Redwood every Monday and returning on Wednesday, and the other to Yellow Medicine, leaving every Friday and returning on Saturday. In this first issue Mr. Seward stated that the issue of the first newspaper had been delayed three weeks by reason of the non-arrival of his material, the steamboat Pioneer, running between Redwood Falls and St. Paul, having been delayed somewhere along the Minnesota river. The Pioneer was engaged in carrying all kinds of freight, but more especially lumber, the common grade of which sold in Redwood Falls at that time for \$37.00 per M, while wheat was being marketed at 70c a bushel.

Mr. Seward's restless disposition did not permit him to remain long in the community in which he felt his talents and his ability were more or less circumscribed, and nearly four years later, or to be more exact, in April of 1873, W. B. Herriott, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., a lawyer by profession, but not caring to practice, came to Redwood Falls from St. Paul and purchased the Redwood Falls Mail. The announcement was made in the issue of April 25, and in the issue of the following week Mr. Herriott announced that the name had been changed to the Redwood Gazette. Mr. Seward returned to Stillwater, where he long after edited the Messenger.

**The Redwood Gazette.** The Gazette was issued as an eight-column folio, with a patent inside, by Herriott & Beal, J. S. Beal having come up from St. Paul with Mr. Herriott and associating himself with that gentleman in the publication of the paper. Mr. Herriott was regarded as the politician and editor of the paper, while Mr. Beal gave his time to the mechanical end of the publication. But money was scarce, times were hard, and the two gentlemen realized that there was not sufficient in the plant to give both a livelihood and on October 15, 1873, Mr. Beal withdrew and Mr. Herriott once again became the sole proprietor, this continuing until April 29, 1880. Mr. Herriott, however, was appointed receiver of the land office at Redwood Falls in 1876, and in a measure received his reward for the early newspaper struggles in that city and county. He was regarded as a person of more or less nervous temperament, but of a conservative disposition in political and business affairs, and it may be stated that from a newspaper standpoint he made very few enemies while his passive friends were numerous.

His position as register of the land officer justified his retiring from the newspaper and on April 29, 1880, he closed out his interests in the Redwood Gazette to James Aiken and W. R. Rigby under the firm name of Aiken & Rigby, the two gentlemen having graduated from the printing office of the Topeka Capital, and coming to Redwood Falls with the hopes of securing both health and wealth. Mr. Herriott continued to reside in Redwood



Falls until he retired from the receivership of public moneys, after which he and his wife moved to California and made that state their permanent home. Messrs. Aiken & Rigby continued the Gazette as an eight-column, patent inside folio by using both long primer and brevier in the composition.

The winter of 1881 was one of unusual hardships. With the blizzard of October 18, 1880, blockading the western railroads and shutting off practically all avenues of trade, with the single exception of the local community, the publishers experienced newspaper hardships which they did not anticipate. No trains were run between Sleepy Eye and Redwood Falls from October until the following March or April. The mail and groceries were brought in by teams. The patent insides of the Gazette failed to arrive and a number of issues were printed on ordinary wrapping paper. When spring came Mr. Rigby concluded that he had sufficient of one Minnesota winter and that Redwood Falls would not support a paper with two publishers, and consequently on May 5, 1881, he retired from the firm and James Aiken became the sole editor and publisher until August 1, 1892, when he was succeeded by Julius A. Schmahl and Herbert V. Ruter, doing business as Schmahl & Ruter.

Both of these young men had acquired a knowledge of the printing business in the Gazette office in previous years and came up from St. Paul, where Schmahl had been a reporter and Ruter a job printer, to purchase the plant in which they had received their earlier instructions. They changed the form of the paper to an eight-column quarto, made it an all-home print proposition, and equipped the office with a power printing press and other up-to-date machinery, as well as materially adding to its equipment. This partnership continued for a year and three months, when Mr. Ruter retired from the firm. James Aiken repurchased his interest and the publication of the Gazette was continued under the firm name of Aiken & Schmahl until December 1, 1906. In 1905 this firm built the magnificent brick Gazette block and moved the plant to that building, its present home.

Rigby was of the nervous, restless type of newspaper man, and wanted things to move rapidly. The sparse population and the lack of wealth in Redwood county was not sufficient to gratify his nature and his ambition, and consequently he sought other fields. James Aiken was of the opposite temperament. Mr. Aiken enjoyed the work at the art of printing. He loved to work at new ideals and new schemes in the print shop. He believed in making friends all of the time, and avoiding the making of enemies, and in his very desire to keep out of entanglements he brought forth mild criticism. But in all of his newspaper connection he preferred the mechanical to the news or editorial desk, although he was one of the smoothest writers that wielded the

pencil in that section of the state. While he did perfect job printing, and made his advertisements models of the printer's art, he wrote without sting, and his newspaper brethren have always wondered how he did it. He avoided show, except as to his newspaper; he loved even his enemies, and while he never injected strenuousness into his efforts, he made friends of all who came into contact with him.

On Dec. 1, 1906, when the writer retired from the Gazette to move to St. Paul and assume the office of secretary of state, to which he had been elected the previous month, Mr. Aiken again went it alone. But he had taken on himself a big job printing business an increased size newspaper, and a general increase of all branches of the business, and he soon found that it was a larger task than his advanced age justified. During 1911 he disposed of the plant to Grove E. Wilson, a St. Paul reporter, who conducted it until about the close of the 1913 session of the legislature, when it passed into the hands of Mrs. Bess M. Wilson and Clemens Lauterbach, the latter the present postmaster at Redwood Falls, and Mrs. Wilson, one of the best newspaper "men" in the state, as her writings in The Gazette clearly verify. In September, 1916, Mr. Lauterbach sold out his interest to Mrs. Wilson and she is now sole owner of the expensive plant.

Learning of the publication of this history of newspapers in Redwood county, Mr. Aiken has made the following voluntary contribution regarding The Gazette, and the young men who graduated from his printing office:

"The association of Julius A. Schmahl with the Redwood Gazette dates back to the fall of 1880, when as a boy of 14, he closed a summer campaign devoted to managing a bunch of cattle for the Barber brothers in Vesta township and began his career as printer and office assistant in the Gazette office. The boy Julius was a live wire from the start, not limited to the routine of sweeping out the office, working at the cases and inking the forms printed on the Washington hand press and the only job press which Redwood county afforded at that time. His instinct for finding out everything that was going on in the community as well as in the office, was a valuable asset for the Gazette editor, then almost as new to the work of conducting a newspaper as his young assistant to the art of printing. This unquenchable desire to know things is the foundation of Mr. Schmahl's rapid advancement in education and efficiency in most of the undertakings with which he has since been associated.

"At the end of three years' service in the Gazette office, young Julius found work in a printing office at Fargo and later on at St. Paul, where his brother Otto was employed in a drug store. Here his activities brought him into contact with the late Harlan P. Hall, among others, and gave him a chance to get busy

as a reporter on the newspaper which Mr. Hall was then connected with. The progress of the future editor of the Gazette from local scout to legislative reporter, Chatauqua student till his diploma was secured, editor of the Gazette, clerk of the Minnesota house of representatives and secretary of state continuously since 1906 were, of course, not accidental, but the result of natural ability and aggressiveness. Without even a high school education as a boy, as a young man he had followed up his Chatauqua course with an almost continuous reading in law which has enabled him to save for the state more than his salary during his term in office.

"In August of 1892, Mr. Schmahl entered into partnership with H. V. Ruter, who also began his career as printer in The Gazette office, and purchased the entire interest of The Gazette owner, Mr. Aiken. New machinery and equipment was added, and the paper enlarged to its present eight-page form. Fifteen months later Mr. Ruter sold his interest in the firm to the former owner, and the firm of Aiken & Schmahl continued to guide the destinies of The Gazette until the latter was elected secretary of state of Minnesota, in 1906, when the secretary-elect sold the property to his partner.

"Mr. Schmahl was managing editor of The Redwood Gazette from August, 1892, to December of 1906—more than 14 years—and the files of that paper show that he was an indefatigable promoter for public and social betterments as well as for political success for those whom he championed. Naturally aggressive, his fearlessness brought on three libel suits within a single year, only one of which resulted in a nominal adverse verdict, and the ultimate effect was a large addition to the Gazette's subscription list which evened up the cost of the legal defense.

"The writer may be pardoned for calling attention to the connection of another Redwood county boy, now well known in Minnesota public life, who was the immediate predecessor of Julius A. Schmahl as office boy and assistant manager of the Redwood Gazette. Like Julius, he was of German parentage. In the summer of 1880 he began his newspaper experience—willingness to help, good nature and awkwardness being his natural characteristics. It was the memorable winter of snow blockades of the railroads lasting for a month or more at a stretch, and Anton's jokes and good nature helped to make the desperate situation, with green wood for fuel and no business or income to speak of, endurable for the struggling publishers. Anton shifted to more profitable employment in a store for a time, but the lure of the printers' ink ultimately claimed him. Anton C. Weiss was too clever a business man to long remain at the case and early became subscription solicitor for the Minneapolis Tribune, later Duluth representative of the Pioneer Press and

ultimately business manager and principal owner of the Duluth Herald, since that time continuously under his control and now one of two or three truly great newspaper influences in this state."

**The Lamberton Commercial.** Owing to the fact that the United States government gave the Indians, by the treaty of 1851, a ten-mile strip running south of the Minnesota river from a point in Brown county, west to the state line, the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company, when it was incorporated for the purpose of building a railroad through this section of the state, and in order to secure the government land grant as a bonus for the construction, was obliged to keep away from this reservation line in order to obtain the full grant. The result was that on reaching Sleepy Eye, the railroad company was obliged to proceed in a south-westerly direction and consequently passed through the southern portion of Redwood county. This was the first line of railroad built in the county, notwithstanding the fact that agitation had long before been commenced for the construction of a railroad to Redwood Falls.

Among the first towns to spring into existence as a result of the construction of the Winona & St. Peter railroad through the southern portion of Redwood county was Lamberton, the town being named after Hon. Henry W. Lamberton, of Winona. Here in this village the second newspaper published in Redwood county commenced its existence. While the village was established in 1873 and the first building on the site was erected about that time, or a little bit later, the grasshopper plague gave the village, as well as the surrounding country, a set-back, and it was not until 1877 that a new start was taken and a substantial growth commenced.

The Lamberton Commercial was established in December of 1878, the publisher being W. W. Yarham, a young man who had some slight knowledge of the printing business, but Mr. Yarham found the venture a hard one, and in June of 1880, he sold out his interest in the newspaper to A. M. Goodrich. Mr. Goodrich was a native of Minnesota, having been born only 20 years before in Silver Creek, Wright county, and during the years between 1877 and 1880, he taught school in winter and worked at the printer's trade in summer. He continued the paper until January 19, 1882, when, in a formal announcement of suspension he stated that he was obliged to discontinue publication for lack of a decent support.

Some time after the period of this suspension and July, 1889, there was a publication in the village under the direction of J. S. Letford, who had moved from Golden Gate, Brown county, to Lamberton, and had engaged in the general mercantile business. Mr. Letford had served as a member of the Minnesota

legislature from Carver county for three terms, and while he never had acquired any knowledge of printing, he had some knowledge of editorial work and continued a paper commensurate with the size of the town. It is apparent that it, too, was required to suspend publication for the lack of support.

**The Lamberton Leader.** About July 1, 1889, the Lamberton Leader came into existence under the direction of that unusually energetic and pugnacious young newspaper man, W. D. Smith. Smith published an eight-column folio Republican newspaper, having a ready print for the inside. Smith was a genuine village Beau Brummel, wearing a silk hat on his visit to the county seat and setting himself up as one of the political leaders of Redwood county. This latter leadership was never disputed, partly because Smith played the game of the real leaders. He was particularly aggressive in his attempt to be the dictator of business and political policies of Lamberton, with the result that the support continued to dwindle and on May 19, 1893, that support had reached the starving point and Mr. Smith, in announcing the discontinuance of the Leader, stated that: "Because of trouble (withdrawal of patronage, etc.) with Lamberton's Business Men's Union, this is the last issue of the Leader under its founder. We feel we have been shamefully treated. We leave with not a single word of commendation from those for whom we have used column after column of our paper for their benefit. We thank our hosts of real friends for kind words and advice, and say Good-Bye, and God Speed You." It appears that Mr. Smith had accepted a number of advertisements from business men of Tracy, about eighteen miles west of Lamberton, for his paper, and the business men of Lamberton contended that this was disloyal and unpatriotic. At any rate, the business men were in the saddle and Mr. Smith left for other fields.

**The Lamberton Star.** About two months later W. C. Starr appeared in Lamberton and commenced the publication of the Lamberton Star, the first issue making its appearance about the middle of July. Mr. Starr was a well developed newspaper man, and in addition had well defined ideas as to the policies he should pursue in making editorial and local comment upon the acts of public men and upon things in general occurring in and around Lamberton. He continued an aggressive paper until some time in 1910, when circumstances induced Mr. Starr to close out his interests in the paper to E. M. Wilson, who had previously conducted the Echo at Milroy, Redwood county. Mr. Wilson continued as publisher of the Star until after he was defeated for county auditor of Redwood county in 1914, when he disposed of his interests to Hoagland Bros., the present proprietors, Mr. Wilson moving to Marshall county and establishing a new paper in one of the towns of that county. His predecessor, W. C. Starr,

moved to Redwood Falls shortly after closing out his interests at Lamberton and purchased what was then known as the Redwood Reveille.

**The Redwood Reveille—Now the Redwood Falls Sun.** During the autumn of 1885 a second paper was launched in Redwood Falls, called the Redwood Reveille. The projector and owner was Charles C. Whitney, of Marshall, the publisher of the News-Messenger at that place, while the editor and manager was W. M. Todd, who founded and published the Lyon County News of Marshall and the Trumpet, of Tracy, Lyon county. Mr. Whitney, now deceased, began his newspaper career in Lyon county with the Lyon County News, which he purchased from Mr. Todd, but later on he purchased the Marshall Messenger from C. F. Case and adopted the hyphenated name of News-Messenger.

It is doubtful if it was seriously thought by anyone that Redwood Falls at that period furnished a field large enough for two newspapers. There were probably very few, if any, who would have said the field was not already amply and ably filled. It is more probable that Mr. Whitney, who still had on hand the type, presses and equipment which he acquired with the purchase of the Messenger, simply took his chances on the field with the view of utilizing this idle equipment until such a time as he could dispose of it.

Of course, there are in every place, a few who have at one time or another taken umbrage at something printed in the local paper. A few have resented the opposition of the paper to their political ambitions or schemes, and others have thought that, considering their friendship for the paper, its support was disappointing in its lack of warmth. Some have doubtless thought the accomplishments and loveliness of their sons or daughters were not sufficiently amplified in the accounts of their weddings, and others that the virtues of their deceased relatives were obviously slighted in the published obituaries. There were naturally a few of these in Redwood and they as naturally welcomed the advent of the new paper. Still no bonus was offered and no pledges of support. The glad hand was extended, and that was all.

The first issue of the Reveille was struck off Nov. 7, 1885. The paper was an eight-column folio and all printed at home. Mr. Todd had won some renown as a journalist during the editorship of his former papers, and his salutatory as well as the name of the new paper was characteristic.

When a newspaper that has long enjoyed a monopoly of its field suddenly finds that it is to have opposition it generally becomes a little uneasy and almost unconsciously goes into training for a scrap which it instinctively believes to be inevitable. Its columns begin to give more news and every feature of the



paper shows increased enterprise. In other words, it tries to show its coming rival that it must "go some" to beat it. This was true of the Gazette all the while the Reveille was getting ready for its first issue. The Gazette man watched the Reveille as a hen watches a hawk and the Reveille man slept at night with one eye open and focused on the Gazette building. But the scrap never occurred. It may be that "one was 'fraid 'n 'tother dasent." Neither paper saw a chance for honest criticism of the other; on the other hand each became convinced that the other was doing all it could in the interest of the place and its people. Each paper was better for the existence of the other, just as one political party is better for the existence of a jealous rival party, and the two editors became and have since continued fast friends.

The staff of the Reveille during the period of Mr. Todd's management included Peter Larson, foreman; J. A. Schmahl, now secretary of state; Miss Charlotte Schmahl, now Mrs. John J. Palmer, of Duluth; Fred Peabody and William Bigham. Mr. Todd ceased his connection with the Reveille with the issue of Jan. 1, 1887, and accepted the position of deputy insurance commissioner, tendered to him by Gov. A. R. McGill. He was, for several years, a reporter on the St. Paul daily papers, but for the last ten years has been chief clerk of the state grain inspection department at Minneapolis. He has never lost his inclination or ability to write, and is a frequent contributor to magazines and periodicals.

With the retirement of Mr. Todd from the editorial position on the Redwood Reveille, there came into the life of that paper Stephen Wilson Hays. Mr. Hays had long been a resident of Redwood Falls. During the eight months prior to April 29, 1880, he had acted as editor of the Gazette under William B. Herriott. He came from Pennsylvania. As a result of his earlier newspaper affiliation and on account of friends in Pennsylvania, he was appointed postmaster at Redwood Falls, a position which he held for a number of years. He was not engaged in any special line of work when Mr. Todd retired, and he became editor of the Reveille. Mr. Hays was one of the most genial, good natured men that ever came to Redwood Falls. He continued a pleasing Republican policy in the editorial columns of the Reveille, and gathered the local news in a commendable manner. Mr. Whitney continued as publisher until March 16, 1889. During Mr. Hays' editorial career he got into the good graces of Wm. D. Washburn, United States senator from Minnesota, and just before his retirement Mr. Washburn had secured for him a position in the federal revenue service. This was the cause of his retirement and for some years thereafter Mr. Hays continued to work for the U. S. government, most of his time being spent in the



sugar plantations of Louisiana. With the change from a Republican to a Democratic national administration, Hays was dropped from the service. He returned to Redwood Falls without any work or business in sight. One Saturday evening he was with a crowd of young men of the town—a group that he had known during his earlier years—and while they noticed certain peculiarities in his actions, they did not dream of what Mr. Hays apparently had in his mind at that time. The following morning, and it was a cold Sunday morning, his lifeless body was found on the ice of the Redwood river, one-eighth of a mile below the falls of the Redwood. It appears that he had lived up to his income and having no available means and no position, he decided to pass into the next world by the laudanum route.

Some time prior to March 16, 1889, there came to Redwood Falls a distinguished old veteran of the Civil War, W. L. Abbott, who brought with him his wife, three charming daughters and a son. Mr. Abbott was a printer without employment, and when Mr. Hays retired from the *Reveille* to accept the federal position, Mr. Whitney, the publisher, made an arrangement with Mr. Abbott whereby he became the editor and news gatherer of the *Reveille*. Mr. Abbott took with him his son, William, into the plant and there the young man, who afterwards went to Mankato and then to St. Paul to continue the printing business, received his first lessons in the art preservative, but the elder Abbott did not remain long with the *Reveille*, his name being removed from the top of the editorial column of the paper on Saturday, Sept. 14, of that year, the last issue under his editorship appearing on the Saturday previous. Mr. Abbott was a pleasing person to meet, and gave the *Reveille* a good standing in Redwood county. He passed away years afterwards, and his remains now lie in the Redwood cemetery.

About the time that Mr. Abbott retired from the publication, Mr. Whitney had as foreman of his excellent printing office at Marshall, George B. Hughes, a whole souled, clever young man, who possessed practically everything in his nature but aggressiveness. Mr. Hughes was anxious to launch into the printing business for himself, and it is apparent that Mr. Whitney sent him to Redwood Falls with a view of becoming acquainted with the plant, and if he deemed it worthy of purchase, and the town suitable to the tastes of Mr. Hughes, to permit the latter to purchase the same. At any rate the *Reveille* continued without an announced editor until Saturday, Oct. 11, 1890, when the name of **George B. Hughes** appeared at the masthead as editor and publisher, and on Dec. 26, 1891, the paper was changed from a four-page folio to an eight-page quarto. Mr. Hughes had in the meantime married Miss Mattie Maxson, a charming young lady, employed in the office of the Marshall Messenger, and when she

came to Redwood Falls with her husband, she added very materially to the society news and prestige of the paper. Mr. Hughes continued as the publisher of the paper until Wednesday, July 4. It was several months previous to that time that in a postoffice contest between James Aiken of the Gazette, and Mr. Hughes of the Reveille, the friends of the latter prevailed upon Representative McCleary of the Second Congressional district, to recommend Mr. Hughes for appointment. The appointment was accordingly made, and shortly after Mr. Hughes took possession, the editorship and control of the paper was turned over to two young men under the firm name of Barnes & Kruse, but the proprietorship still vested in Mr. Hughes.

A. M. Welles, for a long time a reporter on the Minneapolis and St. Paul papers, afterwards superintendent of schools at Redwood Falls, and still later holding down a position at one of the desks of the Omaha Bee, returned to Redwood Falls prior to July 4, 1900, and once more became so attached to the city as to cause him to buy the Reveille plant from Mr. Hughes. Welles ruled the schools over which he was principal with a rod of iron, and as he carried on his reportorial and editorial career with bitterness, he allowed a portion at least of that spirit to enter into the Reveille upon his assuming control. For six years he struggled to give the Reveille the prestige of being the leading paper in Redwood county, and was in a continuous newspaper fight with Schmahl of the Gazette, for that prestige. The writings of either were bitter at times, and jealousy even entered into the securing of business for either office. During the rise of Schmahl to the post of chief clerk of the house and his four successive elections, Welles became bitter from a political standpoint, and after Schmahl's nomination for secretary of state on June 13, 1906, Welles directed a continuous weekly fusillade at that candidate. As a result of the bitterness growing out of that campaign, Welles became tired of conditions in Redwood Falls and Redwood county, and on Friday, March 15, 1907, he announced the sale of the paper to a corporation known as the Gopher State Realty Company, with S. G. Peterson as editor and publisher. Welles has always possessed an exceptionally bright mind, has always shown a real talent for excellent newspaper work. He afterwards published the Sauk Center Herald and now is publisher of the Worthington Globe.

S. G. Peterson had just retired from the mercantile business in Redwood Falls. Prior to engaging in the latter business he had been engaged with a newspaper in McLeod county, and in his individuality there lurked the call created by the smell of printers' ink, but after running the Reveille for about a year and a half, or until Friday, Sept. 19, 1908, he disposed of the same to L. L. Thompson, who came to Redwood Falls from Iowa, and

who had more or less experience in the newspaper business. Mr. Peterson has been engaged in various occupations since that time and is now in business at Hutchinson.

Mr. Thompson continued as editor and publisher of the *Reveille* until Tuesday, June 28, 1910, when after a varied career as the guiding hand of that newspaper, he disposed of his interests to W. C. Starr, who had a short time before disposed of his interests in the *Lamberton Star*, and was looking for that new field which he found at Redwood Falls. The name was changed to the *Redwood Falls Sun*, and Mr. Starr continued as editor and publisher up to Friday, Oct. 16, 1914, when the publication was given to the Starr Publishing Company with W. C. Starr as editor and H. L. Starr as local editor. Mr. Starr and Mrs. Starr have a number of bright young Starrs in their family, and all of them are employed in getting out the weekly edition of the *Sun* and also in helping in the job department. The *Sun* is a well edited newspaper filled with local news and thoroughly covering the Redwood county news field.

**The Morgan Messenger.** The history of The Morgan Messenger is closely associated with the history of the town itself and its growth has kept apace with the progress of the village. Its first issue appeared on April 30, 1890, the year after the village was incorporated. The founder of the paper was Guy Small, who ran it for a year, and disposed of the paper to W. R. Hodges, editor of the *Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch*. Its first home was a little shack, located on Vernon avenue, but which at that time had not come into its own as the main business street of the town. With the change in ownership the new publisher placed The Messenger in charge of Asa P. Brooks, who ran it for Mr. Hodges for over two years when Dan McRae took over the plant. Some years later, while publisher of the *New Ulm Review*, Mr. Brooks gained considerable notoriety as the eye witness to the murder of Dr. Gebhart.

There were frequent changes of ownership in the early history of the paper, which possibly accounts for the fact that many of the files of The Messenger were not preserved, and in some cases the dates of change of ownership were calculations made by the early residents of Morgan. Not only were there several changes in the location of the plant, but also in the size and form of the paper. The first few years it was an eight-column folio, with but two pages printed at home. While Mr. Brooks was at the helm it was changed to eight pages, six columns, with about three pages printed in the local plant. Thus it remained during the editorship of Mr. McRae, who disposed of the paper to I. N. Tompkins in 1896. The publisher reduced the paper to five columns, eight pages, printing half of the paper at home. In the fall of 1898 Mr. Tompkins was elected to the position of county

auditor of Redwood county, and shortly after assuming his official duties he sold the plant to W. Roy Whitman, who was connected with The Messenger for three years. Mr. Whitman increased the size of the paper to six columns, the present size. In January, 1902, F. S. Pollard made his debut as editor and publisher. Having been appointed postmaster Mr. Pollard sold out to C. C. Eaton in June, 1905. During Mr. Eaton's ownership the plant was rebuilt entirely and the equipment much enlarged, making The Messenger plant one of the best and most up-to-date of any to be found in a small town. In February, 1912, H. B. West, the present publisher, purchased the paper. The paper has received liberal support at the hands of the business men and citizens of Morgan and community.

**The Walnut Grove Tribune.** The first newspaper printed in Walnut Grove was run off the press Aug. 13, 1891. The founder was Joseph N. Byington, an eastern man, who had come to Minnesota to farm and had moved to Walnut Grove from Murray county. The paper was named "Rural Center," as it was Mr. Byington's ambition to have his town a center in both the spiritual and material development of the community. He always maintained an editorial column of a high order and wrote vigorously in behalf of progressive principles, to some extent as advocated by the People's party. In form the paper was a six column quarto.

On Oct. 25, 1900, he sold the paper to Hulburt & Gleason, partly because of political opposition, and to save the town from having to support also another paper which was talked of. He retired from active business and passed away June 17, 1906.

The new proprietors at once changed the name of the paper to Walnut Grove Tribune, which is its present name. The editorial end was managed by A. C. Gleason, who was a brilliant writer, but careless of details. The form was cut down to a five-column quarto, which was changed to a short six-column quarto in June the next year, and this again was enlarged in October, 1901, to a full six-column quarto, which had been its original size, and which is still being maintained. A. C. Gleason became sole owner and editor in October, 1901, and ran the paper until March 20, 1902, when it was sold to Geo. M. Long, an Iowa newspaper man. He was a good printer and built up the plant mechanically by the addition of a cylinder press and other improvements. In politics he also took an active part on the Republican side and was appointed postmaster in January, 1903, but died on August 9, the same year, of typhoid fever, at the early age of 32 years.

R. W. Stewart, foreman at the office, managed the paper for the estate until in October, 1903, when arrangements were made whereby he became proprietor, and being a good printer, ran a

creditable paper and job plant until April 6, 1905, when he sold his interest and moved to Ceylon, this state, where he is located at present.

The new editor was Wm. G. Owens, at that time an attorney at Walnut Grove, later county attorney, and now located at Wiliston, N. D. On March 1, 1906, he sold his interest to Chas. E. Lantz, the present publisher, who bought the plant from the Long estate, and has run a politically and otherwise independent paper. In August, 1915, the Tribune took over the subscription list of the Revere Record, which having been published at Revere for 15 years was suspended by its editor, Owen M. Parry.

**The Sentinel.** The newspaper field of the south side of Redwood county was greatly enlivened by the appearance on May 5, 1893, of the first edition of the Sanborn Sentinel, published at Sanborn. The town itself was one of the live towns of Redwood county and for a number of years the merchants had been calling for a newspaper of their own. The editor and publisher of the paper was C. K. Blandin, and from the outset he injected into the news and editorial columns a spirit of active publicity and generous boosting and hard knocking. It was in the early part of 1894 that Mr. Blandin made himself conspicuous all over Redwood county by issuing a political edition that created a genuine sensation among all of the Republican politicians and followers of that county. The edition had a remarkable effect upon the county conventions of that year and Mr. Blandin was convinced that his purpose had been accomplished. The Sentinel continued as a prosperous sheet for the first year of its existence. However, the town was small, the field limited, and in addition, the publisher was so active in politics and in his local field that he made the usual number of enemies. Support commenced to dwindle and the publication was discontinued and the outfit moved to Olivia, Renville county. Mr. Blandin is now the successful business manager of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press.

Sanborn, however, was not long without a newspaper, for Sept. 7, 1896, the Sentinel again made its appearance with A. D. McRae as the publisher, and in September of 1898, it was sold to L. M. Reppey.

Still later, or in 1900, George E. Bartholomew became the editor and publisher. Mr. Bartholomew was an educator by profession, but drifted into the newspaper field with the hopes that it would be beneficial to his health. He was a genial person and made more friends in the newspaper field than the average publisher. He became a candidate for county office but was defeated. He was postmaster at Sanborn during a portion of his residence there, and in April of 1904, he was obliged to close out his inter-

ests in the Sentinel, and with his wife, moved to Colorado with the hopes of regaining his health.

His successor was Angus D. McRae, a Redwood county product, who revived the Sentinel after its suspension under Mr. Blandin, and who continued as editor and publisher until January, 1910. Mr. McRae was, like Mr Bartholomew, a publisher who made friends not only at home, but throughout the county. He became a candidate for register of deeds of Redwood county in 1908, and was elected, and he has been holding that position ever since. He closed out his interests in the paper to Grover Posz, a son of Geo. Posz of Sanborn, who had acquired some knowledge of printing in the Sentinel office under Mr. McRae's management. Mr. Posz did not continue long at the helm and on Sept. 11, 1912, he turned the plant back to Mr. McRae, and on Oct. 23, 1912, the building containing the postoffice and the printing office burned and the following week the remains of the plant were sold to H. E. Kent. Mr. Kent received his training as a printer in a printing office at Sleepy Eye. He came to Sanborn with youthful newspaper enthusiasm and has made the Sentinel one of the active newspapers of Redwood county. By reason of his activity he was appointed postmaster at Sanborn and now conducts the postoffice as well as the Sentinel.

The destruction of the files of the Sentinel by fire several years ago has made it impossible to secure the exact date as to the number of changes of the paper, but the gentleman mentioned above were all interested in the Sentinel during the periods mentioned. It is well to state that A. D. McRae, who has been one of the political and business successes of Redwood county, and the present Sentinel publisher, as well as those of the future, will always point to the present register of deeds of Redwood county with pardonable pride.

When Mr. McRae re-established the Sentinel in 1896 he purchased the greater part of the outfit from the Morgan Messenger, the press alone being purchased from another party, Fred A. Wright, of the Springfield Advance. It was a Mann hand cylinder press, the only one of its kind in the state of Minnesota at that time, and it was sold to Mr. McRae for \$15. Mr. McRae has often informed the writer that to really appreciate the value of the press it was necessary for a person to operate it.

**The Belview Independent.** Running along the north side of Redwood county from the Minnesota river where it passes through the village of Morton in Renville county, and following very nearly the course of the Minnesota until it passes out of the western boundary line of Redwood county, is the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad. This railroad was originally intended to be constructed through what is now the city of Redwood Falls, and from thence in a due westerly course to Marshall, and



further on, to South Dakota. But when the construction crew reached Morton, there was a financial crash and when the work of extension was again taken up, for some reason known only in railroad circles, the company deviated from the original course and pursued the present route through the remaining portion of Minnesota and into South Dakota. The construction of this line was followed by the location of three different townsites—one at North Redwood, the second at Delhi, and the third at Belview. The village of Belview is apparently now the largest one of these three villages. It is the only one of the three villages that is blessed with a newspaper. Prior to 1895, Belview, as well as the other two villages, were given departments in the two papers at Redwood Falls, the latter vying with one another as to which could give the best service and make the best showing. Belview was given unusual space for the weekly doings and the businessmen patronized the Redwood Falls papers accordingly. The Redwood Gazette was long the official paper of the village, but in about 1895 there appeared Frank E. Harris, an excellent printer and a good news gatherer, and with him came the Belview Independent. Mr. Harris was an original character, but could not refrain from the pleasantries of life, and within a year or two after he established the paper, he disposed of it to W. T. Wasson, son of J. B. Wasson, a blacksmith of Redwood Falls. Young Wasson had some knowledge of the printing business, but never as a newspaper man. He was residing on a farm south of Belview with his mother at the time he made the purchase. The paper lost some of its former ginger and Mr. Wasson disposed of the plant about 1900 to H. M. Keene, who was also a printer and a newsgatherer, and who made little more than a living in conducting the enterprise. Mr. Keene, in about the same length of time, disposed of the paper to two young men under the firm name of Ehlers & Halberg, who continued the paper for two more years, when it was sold to F. G. Tuttle, and the latter continued the publication until some time about 1912.

Fred G. Tuttle possessed more newspaper experience than most of the newspaper men in Minnesota. His political experience was correspondingly great. He had conducted newspapers in various parts of the state, and was one of the important factors in the big Kindred-Nelson congressional fight in the Old Fifth Minnesota district. Quitting the newspaper field in that section he traveled into southern Minnesota and either owned or controlled papers at Echo, Vesta and Milroy during or before the time that he settled in Belview. "Dad" Tuttle, as he was more familiarly known, was a pleasant writer when telling of news, but he was bitter, vindictive, and convincing in his political writings, and when he finally disposed of his plant to take up newspaper life in Montana, there were many of the politicians



of Redwood county ready to express thanks. He sold the paper to L. F. and C. A. Johnson, and the latter two young men are still the owners and are keeping the paper in pace with the big business progress and prosperity of Belview and the rich farming district surrounding the town. "Dad" Tuttle moved to Paxton, Montana, where he started another paper. His declining health, however, caused his death, in 1915.

**The Revere Record.** The eighth newspaper to be established in Redwood county was the Revere Record. The place of its publication was Revere, between Lamberton and Walnut Grove. It is a town that was never able to properly support a paper. The census of 1910 gave it only a population of 134, while there were established newspapers in the towns on either side. But C. W. Folsom, a newspaper man, who never hesitated in establishing newspapers and who came from northeastern Minnesota, was convinced that Revere would get back of the Record. He established the paper in May of 1901, and continued as editor until Sept. 29, 1904, running a six-column quarto paper with six pages printed by the patent inside houses.

On Sept. 29, 1904, R. D. Crow became the editor and business manager, Folsom remaining as publisher, though the style of the firm is given in the Record of that date as Revere Publishing Co., with H. H. Dahl, then a well known banker of Revere, as having some interest in the company. On November 10, 1904, it was enlarged to a seven-column quarto, with a patent inside; and the ownership passed to Peer Storoeard on Dec. 14, 1904. Each edition of the paper showed that while the business houses of Revere were giving it support, the publisher must be dragging out a mighty poor existence. Mr. Storoeard continued as the publisher until the fall of 1912, when the paper passed into the ownership of Owen Parry, and on August 5, 1915, the paper, after over fourteen years of struggling for existence, suspended publication, the editor in his valedictory stating that the receipts from the advertising had been only \$12.00 per month ever since he had assumed control.

**The Wabasso Standard.** In 1899 the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, fearing the construction of a line of railroad through the central portion of Redwood county by the Chicago Great Western Company, which latter company then had Mankato for its terminal point, concluded to head off the construction of a new railroad line by an opposing company in what it termed its territory, by constructing the line from Sanborn northwest to Vesta, and later by extending the line from Sleepy Eye to Marshall. This made Redwood county, with the single exception of the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad on the extreme north, distinctly Chicago & Northwestern territory.

With the construction of the line from Sanborn to Vesta there

grew up the towns of Wanda, Wabasso, Seaforth and Vesta. Seaforth at the outset being known as Okawa, the Indian name for pike.

With the establishing of the towns there came that one advance agent of civilization, the newspaper, and on April 20, 1900, there appeared the first issue of the Standard, published at Wabasso, the latter name being the Indian name for "the land of the white rabbit." W. F. Mahler was the editor and publisher, and was a remarkable young printer. He was gifted with more than ordinary talent for conducting a print shop and doing a fine line of printing. He was an excellent pressman in addition, and with his newspaper talent made the Wabasso Standard one of the neatest appearing papers in Redwood county. The town, however, was not large enough for him, and after spending a year or more with the Gazette at Redwood Falls, he purchased the Advance at Springfield, where he is now located. He sold the Standard on Nov. 7, 1902, to A. Clark Gleason, who came from Walnut Grove, and who, like Mahler, was an excellent printer and a good newspaper man. Mr. Gleason likewise found Wabasso too small for his talent, and on Oct. 14, 1904, disposed of the plant to James A. Larson, of Walnut Grove, the present assistant secretary of state, who bought the paper for the fun and experience of learning how to run a newspaper. Shortly afterwards the paper was controlled by Gooler & Larson, L. A. Gooler of Lamberton, associating himself with Mr. Larson in the publication, but on Oct. 25, 1907, this firm sold the paper to Messrs. Wiecks & Truedson, two young men hailing from Walnut Grove, and who were induced to make the purchase through the good offices of Mr. Larson. These two gentlemen sold the plant to Edward G. Weldon on May 7, 1909, and the latter has since conducted the newspaper with a good degree of success and is its present owner.

**Bright Eyes and Vesta Censor.** The tenth newspaper to be established in Redwood county was the Vesta Bright Eyes, of which the Vesta Censor is the successor. Vesta is the terminus of the extension of the railroad from Sanborn northwest to that village. Long before the railroad was even thought of, there resided on one of the large agricultural tracts near the townsite, a well educated gentleman of English descent, by the name of James Arnold. Mr. Arnold had been county commissioner for that district for a number of years. He was rich in thought and was able to commit his thoughts to writing in an excellent manner. Before the first edition of the Bright Eyes was published, Arnold was a frequent contributor to all of the county papers on the political issues of the day, and with the coming of the railroad he saw a better opportunity to give a more complete publication to his thoughts. After conducting the paper for two

years he finally sold the plant to M. E. Lewis, a young Redwood county man, who had acquired some knowledge of the printing business in different offices of the county. Mr. Lewis conducted the plant for a couple of years, when he finally took as a partner Harvey Harris, who had come to Vesta as a townsite boomer and as an agent for the Western Town Lot Company. At the time of this partnership, or on July 20, 1904, the name was changed to the Vesta Censor, and the firm continued the publication until June 1, 1906, when Mr. Harris purchased the interest of Mr. Lewis and became owner of the plant. He announces that he is still the owner, publisher, editor and devil, and during all the time he has been in control there have been only five compositors, all ladies, employed in the shop, four of them retiring from their occupation to become popular wives, and each printing their own wedding stationery before leaving the office.

Mr. Harris was engaged in the mercantile business during his early years and afterwards engaged in railroading, telegraph operator and then working on a farm for two years. He came to Minnesota in 1900 and was cashier in the bank at Sherburn before moving to Vesta. Harris is a versatile, pugnacious little fellow and has always been sufficiently independent to denounce bad politics, bad business methods, and to boost for a good man for office. He maintains that his paper is Republican, but notwithstanding his politics, he maintains an independent attitude. The Censor has kept Vesta well on the map and has been a good advertising medium for that section of the county. In addition to running the newspaper Mr. Harris finds time to engage in the breeding of pure bred poultry and also in the breeding of Cornish Indian game chickens.

**The Milroy Echo.** The eleventh paper to be established in Redwood county was the Milroy Echo, the first edition being printed on May 5, 1902, at Milroy, on the line of the Chicago & Northwestern between Wabasso and Marshall. The veteran newspaper man, F. G. Tuttle, together with his son, Roy Tuttle, established the paper and continued its publication for a year or two when it was sold to J. A. Looney, a young Redwood county citizen, who had no knowledge of the printing business, and who, prior to 1905, disposed of the plant to E. M. Wilson. In 1910 Mr. Wilson purchased the Lamberton Star from W. C. Starr, and in turn sold the Echo to Max W. Johnson, the latter issuing his first number on May 1 of that year. Mr. Johnson was born and raised in Redwood county, and has not only given Milroy a good newspaper, but has made hosts of friends in the county.

**The Wanda Pioneer Press.** In 1902, at the commencement of a strenuous political campaign, Paul Dehnel, a native of Renville county, who had acquired a knowledge of the newspaper and printing business in that county, established the Wanda Pioneer

Press, the publication being made from the village of Wanda, a town between Sanborn and Wabasso, with a much smaller population than even the village of Revere had at that time. Mr. Dehnel took an active part in the primary and general election campaigns, and finding insufficient support for his publication after the campaign was over, moved the plant to Fairfax, Renville county, where he established an opposition paper, but continued it for a short time only. He has since conducted newspapers at Worthington, Springfield and Bemidji, and is now engaged in the newspaper business at Sleepy Eye. Mr. Dehnel was twice the progressive candidate for representative in congress from the Second district, but failed of election both times.

**Seaforth Item.** Between 1900 and 1903 G. Roy Tuttle, son of the veteran newspaper man, F. G. Tuttle, established a paper in Seaforth, known as the Seaforth Item. Young Tuttle was versatile in the extreme and conducted an aggressive paper and even made way with a large portion of the county printing on one or two occasions. He conducted the Item until some time in 1908, when he disposed of the same to A. W. Milbradt, a business man of Seaforth, who conducted the paper in an excellent manner up to the time of his death, March 28, 1913, and the Item was conducted by his widow and son up to July 1, 1915. The paper is now conducted by his son, Ernest Milbradt.

**Other Papers.** This closes the list of bona fide newspapers in Redwood county. As far back as 1880, King Bros., engaged in a dry goods business at Redwood Falls, published the Redwood Merchant, a monthly folio sheet of five columns to the page, in the interests of their store. The firm circulated 1,000 of these papers each month gratis and aside from advertising the different articles in their institution the Merchant contained some interesting paragraphs. The paper suspended with the retirement of the firm from business. It was printed in the office of the Redwood Gazette and the writer of this article, as well as his old partner, James Aiken, and his predecessor as devil in the Gazette printing office, A. C. Weiss, now of the Duluth Herald, will recall the strenuous days in working at the old Washington hand press one entire day during each month in getting out the edition.

In the late nineties, a Norwegian magazine called "Norrna" was published at Walnut Grove for two years by Peer Storoe-gaard, some time afterwards editor of the Revere Record. This magazine was a monthly and published in the "Landsmaal," as distinguished from the literary Norwegian, which is a close adaptation of the Danish, and it is claimed to have been the first publication of its kind in the Western hemisphere. It was revived again in 1914 by its founder and editor, Mr. Storoe-gaard, who publishes it at 313 Broadway, Fargo, N. Dak.

**Authority.** Files of the various newspapers in the custody of the Minnesota Historical Society.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

**REDWOOD COUNTY TOWNSHIPS.**

There are twenty-six townships in Redwood county. Each of the townships is six miles square, except Swedes Forest, Delhi, Honner and Sherman, which are cut by the Minnesota river. Redwood Falls township was in the early days, generally supposed to consist of all unorganized townships in the county, though it was not created by the county commissioners until nearly all the other townships had been created. Sherman township was created Sept. 7, 1869. Sheridan township was created as Holton Jan. 4, 1870. Five townships were created in 1872; Brookville on Feb. 29; Charlestown (consisting of Charlestown and Lamberton), May 3; Blackwood (this town was to include Paxton and Honner, but the organization was not perfected), May 3; Swedes Forest (consisting of Kintire, Swedes Forest and a small part of Delhi), Sept. 4; and Avon (now New Avon), Sept. 4. Four townships were created in 1873; Sundown on Jan. 7; Willow Lake and North Hero on Sept. 2, 1873; and Springdale (then called Summit), on Nov 21. Lamberton was created March 12, 1874. Four townships were created in 1876; Delhi on Feb. 1; Three Lakes on March 16; Underwood on April 13; and Gales on June 19. Three townships came into being in 1878; Waterbury on March 20; Johnsonville on July 16; and Westline on Sept. 25. Vail was created July 30, 1879, as Center. Five townships were created in 1880; Redwood Falls on Jan. 7; Honner on Jan. 10, as Baldwin; Vesta, Kintire and Morgan on May 11. Granite Rock was created several years later, thus completing the list.

When the census of 1870 was taken, Redwood county extended to the state line, embracing the present counties of Redwood, Lyon, Lincoln, Yellow Medicine and La qui Parle. In this vast region there were then living 1,829 people. Redwood Falls township had not been created. However it embraced, generally speaking, all of the present county of Redwood, with the exception of the towns of Sheridan and Sherman, which had been organized with their present boundaries. Lac qui Parle embraced the settlements in what is now Lac qui Parle county. Lynd embraced the settlements in what are now Lyon and Lincoln counties, and also took in a few scattering settlements in the extreme western part of what is now Redwood county. Yellow Medicine embraced the settlements along the Yellow Medicine river in what is now Yellow Medicine county and also the scattered settlement in what is now Swedes Forest township in Redwood county. The population of what is now Redwood Falls

was therefore about 900. The census figures are as follows: Redwood Falls, 691; Sheridan, 111; Sherman, 67; Lac qui Parle, 307; Yellow Medicine, 385; Lynd, 268.

When the census of 1875 was taken the population of Redwood county was 2,982. Owing to irregularities in the creating of townships and the error that had been made in taking for granted the inclusion of all unorganized area in the uncreated township of Redwood Falls, the detailed figures of that census are of little definite value for township comparisons.

The census of 1880 was taken according to present day township divisions. The county population had jumped to 5,375. Redwood Falls, Lamberton and Walnut Grove had been created as villages. Three townships had more than 300 people, Brookville with 326, Springdale with 307, and Charlestown with 304. Four had more than 200 and less than 300, Paxton with 259; Swedes Forest with 251, Sundown with 231, and Lamberton with 224. Twelve towns had a population of 100 or more, and less than 200, North Hero with 196, Gales with 195, Westline with 168, Underwood with 157, Delhi with 156, Sheridan with 155, Sherman with 142, Johnsonville with 124, New Avon with 140, Willow Lake with 114, Three Lakes with 102, Redwood Falls with 100. Seven had less than 100; Honner with 96, Kintire with 71, Vail with 61, Morgan with 56, Waterbury with 54, Vesta with 53 and Granite Rock with 50.

In 1885 no new villages had been created. The population of the county had jumped from 5,375 in 1880 to 6,488. All the towns had increased in population except Granite Rock, Springdale, Waterbury and Westline. The population figures for that year were: Over 400—Brookville, 446; Charlestown, 421. Over 300 and less than 400—Swedes Forest, 328; Paxton, 314. Over 200 and less than 300—Lamberton, 282; Sundown, 277; Springdale, 266; Delhi, 225; Gales, 222. Over 100 and less than 200—North Hero, 198; Sherman, 196; Johnsonville, 174; Redwood Falls, 168; Underwood, 166; New Avon, 164; Sheridan, 159; Willow Lake, 151; Three Lakes, 150; Morgan, 139; Honner, 118; Kintire, 115; Westline, 114. Under 100—Vail, 96; Vesta, 76; Waterbury, 46; Granite Rock, 40.

The population in 1890 had increased to 9,386 people. Morgan village had been created from a part of Morgan township. All the townships had showed a decided increase in population. No township had less than 140 people. Only seven had less than 200. Over 500—Brookville, 582; Charlestown, 546. Over 400 and less than 500—Sundown, 452; Paxton, 423. Over 300 and less than 400—Delhi, 391; Swedes Forest, 370; Lamberton, 350; Sheridan, 317. Over 200 and less than 300—Springdale, 299; Willow Lake, 293; New Avon, 284; Three Lakes, 274; Gales, 272; North Hero, 255; Kintire, 253; Johnsonville, 249; Sherman,



249; Underwood, 238; Vail, 213. Under 200 and over 100—Vesta, 199; Morgan, 196; Redwood Falls, 189; Waterbury, 175; Honner, 167; Westline, 141; Granite Rock, 140.

In 1895 the population of the county had increased to 13,533. Two new villages had been created, Belview from Kintire and Sanborn from Charlestown. All of the townships had increased in population. Only one of the townships, Honner, which consists of but few sections, had less than 200 people. Only three others, Waterbury, Westline and Redwood Falls, had less than 300. The figures were as follows: Over 600—Brookville, 629. Between 500 and 600—Sundown, 597; Delhi, 568; Charlestown, 514. Between 400 and 500—Morgan, 461; Willow Lake, 461; Sheridan, 459; Vesta, 453; Lamberton, 445; New Avon, 443; Johnsonville, 425; Paxton, 425; Three Lakes, 415. Between 300 and 400—Sherman, 392; Springdale, 367; Underwood, 365; Kintire, 364; Swedes Forest, 363; Granite Rock, 356; North Hero, 351; Gales, 350; Vail, 347. Between 200 and 300—Redwood Falls, 285; Westline, 282; Waterbury, 266. Under 200—Honner, 195.

In 1900, the population of the county had increased to 17,261, an increase of 7,875 people, and 83.9 per cent since 1890. Vesta and Wabasso villages had been organized. All the townships had increased in population except Sherman, Swedes Forest, Brookville, and Delhi. None of the towns had less than 262 population. Honner was the only one with less than 300. Westline, Swedes Forest, Sherman, and Redwood Falls were the only others with a population of less than 400. Over 600—Sheridan, 699; Sundown, 661; Brookville, 621; Willow Lake, 603; Lamberton, 612. Between 500 and 600—Paxton, 598; North Hero, 583; New Avon, 547; Granite Rock, 539; Vesta, 531; Charlestown, 525; Delhi, 516; Waterbury, 514; Three Lakes, 512. Between 400 and 500—Johnsonville, 499; Vail, 497; Morgan, 489; Gales, 441; Kintire, 437; Springdale, 431; Underwood, 407. Under 400—Westline, 372; Sherman, 358; Swedes Forest, 349; Redwood Falls, 337; Honner, 262.

The population reached highwater mark in 1905, with a total of 19,034, an increase of 40.6 per cent in ten years. The villages of Clements, Delhi, Lucan, Milroy, North Redwood, Revere, Seaforth, and Wanda had been organized since the Federal census of 1900. The growth in population was for the most part in the villages. The townships of Sheridan, Sherman, Swedes Forest, Vesta, Willow Lake, Charlestown, Delhi, Gales, Honner, Johnsonville, New Avon and North Hero had decreased in population. Population of 600 and over—Sundown, 678; Lamberton, 618; Paxton, 610; Granite Rock, 600. Between 500 and 600—Waterbury, 593; Vail, 556; North Hero, 553; Morgan, 552; Sheridan, 538; New Avon, 553; Three Lakes, 520; Charlestown, 519; Vesta, 511. Between 400 and 500—Johnsonville, 498; Kintire,



489; Underwood, 487; Willow Lake, 477; Delhi, 454; Gales, 440; Springdale, 431; Westline, 409. Under 400—Sherman, 388; Redwood Falls, 380; Honner, 233 (including 126 in North Redwood village, without which the population of the township was 107).

The federal census of 1910 gives the latest authentic returns of Redwood county population. In that year the population of the county had decreased to 18,425, the wet years having caused many of the residents to leave. The townships which showed a decrease in population were: Sherman, Sundown, Swedes Forest, Three Lakes, Underwood, Vail, Vesta, Brookville, Gales, Granite Rock, Honner, Johnsonville, Kintire, Morgan, New Avon, North Hero and Redwood Falls. Those showing an increase were: Sheridan, Springdale, Waterbury, Westline, Willow Lake, Charlestown, Delhi, Lamberton and Paxton. In this connection it should be stated that the population of Lamberton township is not entirely rural, as an unincorporated portion of the village of Lamberton overflows into the township. Over 600—Waterbury, 658; Sundown, 648; Lamberton, 634; Paxton, 629; Brookville, 610. Between 500 and 600—Granite Rock, 560; Sheridan, 557; Vail, 553; Willow Lake, 548; Charlestown, 532; Morgan, 525; Three Lakes, 512; Vesta, 505. Between 400 and 500—New Avon, 494; Johnsonville, 488; Springdale, 476; Delhi, 471; North Hero, 450; Westline, 446; Underwood, 441; Kintire, 429; Gales, 411. Under 400—Sherman, 380; Redwood Falls, 362; Swedes Forest, 336; Honner, 105.

### **SWEDES FOREST.**

(By A. O. Gimmestad.)

Swedes Forest township is located in the very northern corner of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional fractional township 114-37, lying south of the Minnesota river. It is bounded on the north by the Minnesota river, on the east by Delhi, on the south by Kintire, and on the west by Yellow Medicine county. There are two small creeks flowing northward in this township.

The original survey of this township was made during 1866. The work was started by Richard Jewett and George Howe, U. S. deputy surveyor, on July 9, 1866. The land was first class. In the river bottoms in sections 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, and the north half of 20, in the section 24, northwest quarter of section 25, northeast quarter of section 26 were large deposits of trap rock. In sections 21, 22, 27 and 28 and part of 23 and 26 the lands in the bottoms were rich first class soils. The Minnesota river ran through sections 7, 8, 9, 16, 21, 22, 23 and 24. A narrow strip of timber, principally willow and cottonwood, was found along the banks. The timber was heavy, oak, ash, and elm trees were also

found in other parts of the townships besides along the river. In the northeast quarter of section 30 were found the Boiling Springs. From these flowed the creek which ran through sections 20 and 21 to the Minnesota river.

Beginning with March 2, 1868, the west part of Swedes Forest was a part of Yellow Medicine township and after Yellow Medicine county was organized March 4, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. In the meantime the east part had been considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Swedes Forest was created Sept. 4, 1872. It consisted of township 113-37 and all of township 114, ranges 36 and 37, south of the Minnesota. Thus it included the present townships of Kintire and Swedes Forest, and a part of the present township of Delhi. Kintire was created May 11, 1880. On that date fractional 104-36 was attached to Delhi. In the meantime, on February 10, 1880, the present boundaries of Swedes Forest had been established, as an election ordered held at the home of J. J. Hanson, Feb. 23, 1880.

The surface is mostly gently rolling prairie, except the bluffs along the river bottom, which bottom is from one to two miles wide. The soil is rich, deep, black loam with clay sub-soil, and is very productive. The farm buildings and improvements are better than the average of any settlement in this county. The population is all Norwegian, with the exception of one Dane, who is married to a Norwegian, one Scotchman, and one German. There is one Norwegian Lutheran church located on the Minnesota bluff near the center of section 28; a cemetery near the church, four public schools, one at the southwest corner of section 17, one at the northeast corner of section 31, one at the southeast corner of section 28, and one at the southeast corner of N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 26.

The first white settler was Nels Swenson, who was born near the city of Helsingborg, Sweden, in 1837; came to the United States in 1863, came from West Troy, New York, together with another Swede, by the name of Holz, arriving at Swedes Forest in September, 1865. Nels Swenson settled on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 26, and N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 25, 114-37. Mr. Holz assisted Mr. Swenson in building a log cabin, where the two lived together nearly a year. Mr. Holz, being an ex-soldier, moved to near Beaver Falls, Renville county, on a claim awarded him by the Government.

Early in the spring of 1866 a young American by the name of Foot, came up, and settled in section 26, on the farm later occupied by Fred Holt. Mr. Foot, one day at the Minnesota river, in jumping from one rock to another, injured or strained himself internally. He was taken to Redwood Falls for medical aid, where he died later from his injuries. There were several friendly

Sioux Indians that camped near the log cabin, who frequently came to the cabin and asked for things that they were in need of. The old Government trail, or road, was near this house and it became a stopping place for travelers. Although the occupants were bachelors, the travelers were always welcome, and they received the best to be had and most of the time without any compensation, the latch string to the door was always on the outside. Acting Governor Austin was among the many notables entertained there.

On December 22, 1867, Peter Swenson, a brother of Nels, came to Swedes Forest. In coming there he was properly initiated to the weather of the Northwest. Peter Swenson was born in Sweden at the same place as his brother Nels, in 1841. He came to the United States in 1864, left Rome, N. Y., for the West Dec. 10, 1867, arriving at Redwood Falls, Minn., Dec. 21. At Redwood Falls he met a young man by the name of Guleck Olson, from Renville county; with him he started out afoot for Nels Swenson's house, a distance of fourteen miles out from Redwood Falls. Three or four miles out from Redwood Falls, they met Knute Berge, Iver Iverson, Jr., and Tov Rudy, on skis and Nels Swenson, afoot, on the way to Redwood Falls. The three men on skis proceeded to Redwood Falls and Nels Swenson returned with Peter Swenson and Guleck Olson. A very strong cold wind was blowing from the northwest, which they had to face all the way, which chilled the travelers and tired them. Nels Swenson got so cold and exhausted that his companions had a hard time to get him home. He did not recover entirely from the effects for more than a year afterward. Knute Berge, Iver Iverson and Tov Rudy started on skis for home toward evening. Two or three miles out of Redwood Falls, Tov Rudy said he was getting very tired and that he did not think he could make home against the wind. They consulted together as to what to do. Mr. Rudy insisted on going back to Redwood Falls. It was finally agreed that Mr. Rudy return to Redwood Falls, he being favored with the wind being on his back and it being only a short distance. Berge and Iverson were to continue homeward, but after proceeding four or five miles night overtook them. Realizing that they could not go any farther against the wind on the prairie they turned their course toward the Minnesota river in quest of timber. They at last succeeded in reaching the bluff near Rice creek. There being a little timber, they gathered some dry branches to build a fire. To their horror they found that they had only one and a half match between them, but with this they succeeded in starting a fire which they kept going all night, thus saving their lives. They arrived at the Swenson cabin the next morning. That same morning two half-breed Indians started out hunting, coming out on the prairie west from Redwood Falls.

They noticed some object in the distance moving about and falling down; upon arrival at this object they found it to be Mr. Rudy, who had been out on the prairie all night. They brought him to Redwood Falls where he was treated by Dr. Hitchcock, but he died from the effects of his sufferings and frost.

In the spring of 1868 Peter Swenson took up S.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and N.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 35-114-37, but lived with his brother Nels until 1871, when he married Christine Torstensen, from New Ulm. Miss Torstensen was born at Vignes near Lillehammer, Norway. By this time several Norwegians had settled farther west, along the Yellow Medicine river. Their nearest trading place being Redwood Falls and Nels Swenson, now having a housekeeper, the Swenson home became a midway stopping place for nearly all of the settlers farther west. In 1869 Peter Swenson applied for a postoffice, he was appointed postmaster and named it Swedes Forest postoffice. This name was selected because a Swede was the first settler, and Forest on account of the timber that was there where Mr. Swenson built his log cabin. Nels Swenson left Swedes Forest for Bosque county, Texas, in 1876. In 1877 Peter Swenson left for the same place with his family in a coverel wagon. It took them nine weeks to make the trip. They lived in Bosque county about two years, when Peter Swenson started a ranch on Little Cedar creek in Stephens county, Texas, seven miles southwest from Caddo, where he now resides with his family. Nels is now 78 years old; he never married and resides with his brother Peter. The ranch is called Swensondale Stock Farm, Peter Swenson and Son, proprietors. Peter Swenson has 3,500 acres, his son Selmer has 1,150 acres. They have 400 acres under cultivation, using a 12-25 horsepower tractor for plowing, threshing, seeding and harvesting the grain. They keep more than 800 well bred Hereford cattle, besides a large number of horses and mules. They have the best and most expensive residence building in Stephens county; all this is clear from debt or incumbrances, which shows that the hardy Swedes, who started in at Swedes Forest, without any financial means, have made good also in other parts of the country.

In the spring of 1867 came Knute Knutson Berge, wife Ingeborg, two daughters, Christiana and Anna. They were from Hardanger, Norway, and came to Swedes Forest from Rose Creek, Wis. Christiana married Andres Anderson (called Vossen), but died a few years later, leaving one daughter, Gurine, who married Christian Iverson. Anna married Erick Sander and they live on the land settled by Mr. Knutson, that part of section 8, lying south of the Minnesota river. Mrs. Ingeborg Knutson died in the early seventies. Mr. Knutson then married Elizabeth Jordanger from Bredheim, Nordfjord, Norway. She still resides on the farm with her son-in-law, Sander. Knute

Knutson died some fifteen years ago. At the same time and in the same party came Torkel Olson Lyse, wife Martha, and daughter Karen, who later married Egnebrigt Lyse. Mrs. Martha Lyse died and Mr. Lyse later married one Mrs. Nestebö; they are both now dead. Mr. Lyse settled on lots 3 and 4, section 7, near the Minnesota river. The Lyses were from Stavangar, Norway, and came here from Rose Creek, Wis. In the same party also came Iver Iverson, Jr., then a single man; he also came from Rose Creek, Wis., and was from Stavangar, Norway. He settled on S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 19, in the woods on the Minnesota bottom bluffs. He returned to Wisconsin the following year and married Kari Iverson. They had five children, Halvor, Jörgine, Hans, Iver and Oliver. Halvor married Jöde Abrahamson. They reside on their farm northeast from Echo. Jörgine married Hans Abrahamson. She died some five years ago. Hans married Emma Sander, and resides in Belview. Iver and Oliver are unmarried, and reside on the homestead with their mother. In 1867 came Tov Rudy, his wife Turi, and son Lars, and daughter Gunhild. They were from Numedal, Norway, and came here from Fillmore county, Minn. They settled on S.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 28. Mr. Rudy died from exposure in the frost the following winter. Mrs. Rudy married Jens Hanson. He is dead and Turi lives with her son, Tom. Lars Rudy married Christiana Eide from Olden, Nordfjord, Norway. She died about twenty years ago. Lars lives in northern Minnesota. Gunhild married Torsten Mostad, now of Miner county, North Dakota. In 1868 Tarald Iverson and wife, Helena, came. They were from Stavangar, Norway, and came here from Rose Creek, Wis. They settled on E.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 18. Helena died in 1915. They had seven children, Taletta, Julia, Anna, Christian, Ingeborg, Thomas and Chrestine. Taletta married Talsten Herried and lives in Renville county. Julia married Andres Anderson (Vossen), who died many years ago. She lives with her father on the farm. Anna married Ole Sander and lives near the old farm. Christian married Gurine Anderson and lives on his farm northeast from Echo. Ingeborg married Wilhelm Hetle and lives on their farm in section 16, Swedes Forest. Thomas is not married and lives with his father. Chrestine married Thor Hetle and lives on their farm in section 19, Swedes Forest. Ole Herried and wife, Kriste, came in 1869. They were from Hardanger, Norway. They settled on N.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 17. They had eight children, Halsten, Ole, Engeborg, Josephine, Andreas, Knute, Lena and Christiana. Halsten married Taletta Iverson and lives on their farm in Renville county. Ole is not married, and lives in Yellow Medicine county. Engeborg married Ole D. Tufto, and lives on their farm in section 17. Josephine married Elen Lee, they moved to near Brooten, Minn., where Mr. Lee died some

years ago. Andreas married Josephine Mogen. They live at Morgan, Minn. Knute married Gina Haagenon. They live near Morden, Canada. Lina married Christian Anderson. He died in 1915. She lives on their farm in Yellow Medicine county. Christiana married M. O. Gimmestad. They live on their farm in section 20. Kristi Herried died long ago. Ole then married Maria Chilstop; they are both dead some years ago. Bent H. Hegdahl and wife, Barbro, from Indviken, Nordfjord, Norway, came here from Crawford county, Wis., in 1870. They settled on N.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 29. They had eight children—Annie, Helga, Wilhelmina, Bertina, Marie, Henry and Josephine. Annie married A. O. Gimmestad and lives in Belview. Helga married Mons. R. Fosness. She died in 1913. Wilhelmina married C. M. Olson. She died in 1915. Bertina married Andrew Peterson and lives in Belview. Maria married A. W. Lyslo and resides in Belview. Henry bought the home farm. He married Clara Bergon and resides on the farm. Josephine resides with her mother in Belview. Bent H. Hegdahl and wife moved into Belview in 1910. Mr. Hegdahl died in 1915. Mrs. Hegdahl resides in Belview. Ole K. Rake and wife, Elizabeth, from Olden, Nordfjord, Norway, came here in 1870 from Crawford county, Wis. They had three children—Britha, Knute and Helge. Britha married Henrick Odegaard and lives on their farm near Baker, N. D. Knute died some 25 years ago. Helge married Maria Odegaard and lives on their farm in N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 30. Ole Rake died early in the seventies. Mrs. Rake married Tolef Reieron. They had one child, Olina, who married Halvor Huseby, and lives on the old homestead. Elizabeth Rake died about seven years ago. Kolbent K. Rake, a brother of Ole K. Rake, came here in 1870. He married Berta Gimmestad. They have eleven children—Bertina, Ellen, Knute, Olina, Anna, Marie, Clara, Emma, Oscar, Carl, and Lenora. Bertina married G. R. Blackseth and resides at Fairview, Mont. Mr. Rake settled on S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 30, where he now resides.

Frederick Holt came to Swedes Forest in 1867 and brought his family in 1869. The story of this settlement is found in this work under the head of "Pioneer Experiences." At about the same time David Tibbitts settled in the township.

The first election of township officers was held at the home of J. J. Hanson on Sept. 21, 1872. Meeting was called to order by Peter Swenson. Frederick Holt was duly chosen moderator of the meeting. Knut Knutson, Hans A. Bakke, and David Tibbitts were duly chosen judges of the election. Torkel Oleson was elected chairman of the board of supervisors; Iver Iverson and Hans A. Bakke, supervisors; Peter Swenson, town clerk; Torsten Mostad, town treasurer; David Tibbitts and Frederick Holt, justices of the peace; Ole A. Harid and Taral Iverson, constables.



The annual meeting of the town of Swedes Forest was held in the home of J. J. Hanson, on the 11th day of March, 1873. The following officers were elected: Hans A. Bakke, chairman; Iver Iverson and Torkel Oleson, supervisors; Peter Swenson, clerk; Torsten Mostad, treasurer; Ole K. Rake, assessor. The annual meeting of the town of Swedes Forest was held on March 10, 1874. The following officers were elected: Hans A. Bakke, chairman; Iver Iverson and Torkel Oleson, supervisors; Peter Swenson, clerk; T. Mostad, treasurer; Ole A. Harid, assessor; Ole K. Rake and Amund A. Harid, constables; Peter Swenson and David Tibbitts, justices of the peace. Bent H. Hegdal was duly chosen overseer of the highways in road district No. 1, and Hans A. Bakke for road district No. 2. The annual meeting of the town of Swedes Forest was held at the home of J. J. Hanson, March 9, 1875, and the following officers were elected: Hans A. Bakke, chairman; Andrew Cole and Iver Iverson, supervisors; Peter Swenson, clerk; Torsten Mostad, treasurer; Andrew Cole, justice; Ole A. Harid, assessor; John Martin, constable. At the annual election held at the home of Nils Stenson on March 14, 1876, the following officers were elected: Amond Amondson, chairman; Nils Sandager and Mathias Keller, supervisors; John Martin, clerk; Ole Cole, treasurer; Ole A. Harid, assessor; Arch Stewart, justice; Fred Holt and Nels Stenson, constables. At the annual election held at the house of Nils Stenson on March 13, 1877, the following officers were elected: Fred Holt, chairman; Even Sampson and H. H. Hegdahl, supervisors; Peter Swenson, clerk; Ole Cole, treasurer; Andrew Cole, assessor; Torsten Mostad, justice of the peace; Nils H. Sandager and Hans A. Bakke, constables. At the annual election held at the house of J. J. Hanson on March 12, 1878, the following officers were elected: Fred Holt, chairman; Ole Cole and Iver Iverson, supervisors; Torsten Mostad, clerk; Nils Stenson, treasurer; Andrew Cole, assessor; A. Stewart, justice of the peace; Ole Johnson and Kolbert Knutson, constables. At the annual election held at the house of J. J. Hanson on March 11, 1879, the following officers were elected: Hans A. Bakke, chairman; John Martin and B. H. Hegdahl, supervisors; Toarsten Mostad, clerk; Nils H. Sandager, treasurer; Andrew Cole, assessor; J. B. Holms, justice of the peace; Kolben Knutson and H. M. Sandager, constables.

At the annual election held at the house of J. J. Hanson on Feb. 23, 1880, the following officers were elected: Hans A. Bakke, chairman; John Martin and B. H. Hegdahl, supervisors; T. Mostad, clerk; Nils H. Sandager, treasurer; Nils Stenson and Andrew Cole, justice of the peace; Kolben Knutson and Hans Sandager, constables. At another annual election held at the house of J. J. Hanson on March 9, 1880, the following officers were elected: Hans A. Bakke, chairman; B. H. Hegdahl and Anders Davidson,



supervisors; T. Mostad, clerk; H. H. Hegdahl, treasurer; Andrew Cole, assessor; John Martin and Ole A. Harid, justices of the peace; Kolbent Knutson and Andres Hjeldness, constables. At the annual election held at the house of J. J. Hanson on March 8, 1881, the following officers were elected: Hans A. Bakke, chairman; H. H. Hegdahl and David Tibbits, supervisors; Isaac Granum, clerk; Nils H. Sandager, treasurer; Andrew Cole, assessor; Nils Stenson, justice of the peace; Andrew Cole and H. M. Sandager, constables. At the annual election held at the house of J. J. Hanson on March 14, 1882, the following officers were elected: H. A. Bakke, chairman; H. Sandager and H. H. Hegdahl, supervisors; C. Stenson, clerk; N. H. Sandager, treasurer; C. Olson, assessor; T. Mostad and John Martin, justices of the peace; A. H. Bakke and L. Anderson, constables. At the annual election held at the house of T. L. Anderson on March 13, 1883, the following officers were elected: H. M. Sandager, chairman; C. Olson and Anders Davidson, supervisors; T. Mostad, clerk; Nils Sandager, treasurer; Andrew Cole, assessor; O. A. Harid, justice of the peace. At the annual election held at the house of T. L. Anderson on March 11, 1884, the following officers were elected: H. M. Sandager, chairman; Paul Johnson and M. Monson, supervisors; T. Mostad, clerk; Nils H. Sandager, treasurer; Andrew Cole, assessor; John Martin, justice of the peace; L. Anderson and Christ Gimmetstad, constables. At the annual election held at the house of T. L. Anderson on March 10, 1885, the following officers were elected: H. M. Sandager, chairman; Paul Johnson and M. Monson, supervisors; T. Mostad, clerk; N. H. Sandager, treasurer; C. Olson, assessor; Ole O. Flom, justice of the peace. At the annual election held at the house of T. L. Anderson on March 9, 1886, the following officers were elected: H. M. Sandager, chairman; Kolben Knutson and Arne Loken, supervisors; T. Mostad, clerk; N. H. Sandager, treasurer; Andrew Cole, assessor; John Martin, justice of the peace; B. Monson and C. Gimmetstad, constables. At the annual election held at the house of T. L. Anderson on March 8, 1887, the following officers were elected: John Martin, chairman; M. Monson and A. Davidson, supervisors; T. Mostad, clerk; N. H. Sandager, treasurer; A. Cole, assessor; L. Anderson, justice of the peace. At the annual election held at the house of L. Anderson on March 13, 1888, the following officers were elected: H. M. Sandager, chairman; H. H. Hegdahl and Paul Johnson, supervisors; G. Knutson, clerk; N. H. Sandager, treasurer; Andrew Cole, assessor; John Martin, justice of the peace; Bertel Monson and C. Gimmetstad, constables. At the annual election held at the house of L. Anderson on March 12, 1889, the following officers were elected: H. M. Sandager, chairman; Math Monson and Paul Johnson, supervisors; C. Knutson, clerk; N. H. Sandager, treasurer; Andrew

Cole, assessor; John Martin and A. O. Gissestad, justices of the peace; Arne Loken and Andrew Cole, constables.

At the annual election held at the house of L. Anderson, on March 11, 1890, the following officers were elected: H. M. Sandager, chairman; M. Monson and Paul Johnson, supervisors; C. Knutson, clerk; N. H. Sandager, treasurer; A. Cole, assessor. At the annual election held at the house of L. Anderson on March 10, 1891, the following officers were elected: Mathias Monson, chairman; M. O. Gimmetstad and B. H. Hegdahl, supervisors; C. Knutson, clerk; C. Olson, treasurer; A. Cole, assessor; John Martin and Ole O. Flom, justices of the peace; Arne Loken and Anuld Anderson, constables. At the annual election held at the house of L. Anderson, on March 8, 1892, the following officers were elected: M. Monson, chairman; B. H. Hegdahl and M. O. Gimmetstad, supervisors; C. Knutson, clerk; C. Olson, treasurer; A. Cole, assessor. At the annual election held at the house of L. Anderson, on March 14, 1893, the following officers were elected: M. Monson, chairman; Paul Johnson and B. H. Hegdahl, supervisors; C. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; C. Olson, treasurer; Lars Anderson, assessor; M. O. Gimmetstad and Ole O. Flom, justices of the peace; Arne Loken and Olaus Nelson, constables. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 13, 1894, the following officers were elected: Math Monson, chairman; Nils Eide and A. Davidson, supervisors; C. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; C. Olson, treasurer; Lars Anderson, assessor. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 12, 1895, the following officers were elected: C. Knutson, chairman; N. W. Eide and Anders Davidson, supervisors; C. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; C. Olson, treasurer; Lars Anderson, assessor; M. O. Gimmetstad and Ed Holt, justices of the peace; Arne Loken and Olaus Nelson, constables. At the annual election held at the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 10, 1896, the following officers were elected: C. Knutson, chairman; N. W. Eide and A. Davidson, supervisors; C. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; Paul Johnson, treasurer; M. O. Gimmetstad, assessor. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 9, 1897, the following officers were elected: N. H. Sandager, chairman; Tom Anderson and Ed Holt, supervisors; George Olson, clerk; Ole O. Flom, treasurer; Wm. Rueker, assessor; Peter Peterson and H. O. Hegdahl, justices of the peace; C. Iverson and John Hjeldness, constables. At the annual election held in the school house of district No. 10, on March 8, 1898, the following officers were elected: N. H. Sandager, chairman; Ed Holt and Paul Johnson, supervisors; C. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; Ole O. Flom, treasurer; C. Olson, assessor; M. O. Gimmetstad, justice of the peace. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 14, 1899, the following officers were

elected: N. H. Sandager, chairman; Iver Iverson and Ed Holt, supervisors; C. O. Gimmestad, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; H. O. Hegdahl, assessor; Peter Peterson, justice of the peace; Arne Loken and Ole Larson, constables.

At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 13, 1900, the following officers were elected: N. H. Sandager, chairman; Iver Iverson and H. O. Knutson, supervisors; C. O. Gimmestad, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; H. O. Hegdahl, assessor; M. O. Gimmestad, justice of the peace. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of District No. 10, on March 12, 1901, the following officers were elected: C. Olson, chairman; Iver Iverson and A. Davidson, supervisors; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; George Olson, assessor; Geo. Sampson, justice of the peace; Jens Hjeldness and H. B. Hegdahl, constables. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 10, 1902, the following officers were elected: C. Olson, chairman; B. H. Hegdahl and Ole Cole, supervisors; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; C. O. Gimmestad, assessor; M. O. Gimmestad, justice of the peace. At the annual election held in the school house of district No. 10, on March 10, 1903, the following officers were elected: C. Olson, chairman; A. Davidson and B. H. Hegdahl, supervisors; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; C. O. Gimmestad, assessor; John Hjeldness, justice of the peace; N. H. Sandager and L. L. Brevold, constables. At the annual election held at the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 8, 1904, the following officers were elected: C. Olson, supervisor, three years; A. Davidson, supervisor, two years; B. H. Hegdahl, supervisor, one year; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; C. O. Gimmestad, assessor; M. O. Gimmestad and Ed Holt, justices of the peace. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 14, 1905, the following officers were elected: Knute Monson, supervisor, three years; C. Kuntson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; C. O. Gimmestad, assessor; L. L. Bredvold and N. H. Sandager, constables. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 13, 1906, the following officers were elected: A. Davidson, supervisor; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; C. O. Gimmestad, assessor; M. O. Gimmestad and Ed Holt, justices of the peace; O. O. Cole, constable. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 12, 1907, the following officers were elected: C. Olson, supervisor; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; C. O. Gimmestad, assessor; L. L. Bredvold, constable. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 10, 1908, the following officers were elected: K. Monson, supervisor; C. Knutson, clerk; M. W. Eide, treasurer; C. O. Gimmestad, assessor; M. O. Gimmestad and J. N. Sandager, justices of the peace; Ole

Rake, constable. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 9, 1909, the following officers were elected: T. A. Rudy, supervisor; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; C. O. Gimmestad, assessor; L. L. Bredvold, constable. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 8, 1910, the following officers were elected: John Hjeldness, supervisor; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; E. A. Holt and J. N. Sandager, justices of the peace; Ole Rake, constable. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 14, 1911, the following officers were elected: K. Monson, supervisor; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; C. O. Gimmestad, assessor; M. O. Gimmestad, justice of the peace; Oscar Gryting, constable. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 12, 1912, the following officers were elected: T. A. Rudy, supervisor; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; M. N. Sandager, justice of the peace; Ole Rake and O. D. Tufto, constables. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 11, 1913, the following officers were elected: John Hjeldness, supervisor; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; Hans Hegdahl, assessor; M. O. Gimmestad, justice of the peace. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 10, 1914, the following officers were elected: K. Monson, supervisor; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; M. N. Sandager, justice of the peace; O. L. Rake and O. D. Tufto, constables. At the annual election held in the schoolhouse of district No. 10, on March 9, 1915, the following officers were elected: T. A. Rudy, supervisor, three years; C. Knutson, clerk; N. W. Eide, treasurer; C. O. Gimmestad, assessor; M. O. Gimmestad, justice of the peace.

### KINTIRE TOWNSHIP.

(By A. O. Gimmestad.)

Kintire township is located in the northern part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 113-37. It is bounded on the north by Swedes Forest, on the east by Sheridan, and half a mile of Vesta due to the irregularity in the survey, and on the west by Yellow Medicine county. The surface is rolling prairie. The Pacific division of the Minneapolis and St. Louis runs due east and west through the northern portion. Its only village is Belview with a population in 1910 of 290 persons. The trading centers are Belview, Delhi and Redwood Falls. There are four schoolhouses. The predominating nationality is German and Scandinavian.

The original survey of this township was made during 1864. The work was started on Aug. 22, by Charles Davis and James

Webb, Jr., U. S. deputy surveyors. The township was rolling prairie with some meadow and marsh land. The marshes were rapidly drying up. The soil was first rate. There was no timber. There were two lakes meandered—one in sections 22 and 27 and the other in sections 8 and 17. The Sioux Indian reservation line ran through sections 34, 33, 29 and 19.

Beginning with March 2, 1868, the west half of Kintire was included in Yellow Medicine township and after Yellow Medicine county was organized March 2, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. In the meantime the eastern part had been considered a part of Redwood Falls township. When Swedes Forest was created, Sept. 4, 1872, it included Kintire township. Kintire was created with its present boundaries May 11, 1880. Following is a copy of the order inscribed on the minutes:

"Upon receiving a petition of a majority of all the legal voters of Congressional township one hundred and thirteen (113), range thirty-eight (38), in said county, asking that the same be organized as a new town, under township organization law, to be called Kintire. We, the county commissioners of said county did, on the 11th day of May, A. D. 1880, proceed to fix the boundaries of such new town, and name the same Kintire, in accordance with the said petition, and designated the residence of Archibald Stewart, section 13, in said town, as the place for holding the first town meeting in such town of Kintire, to be held on Tuesday, May 25, 1880, A. D. The boundaries of said town of Kintire, as fixed and established by us, are as follows; to-wit: All of congressional township number 113, range 37, according to the United States Survey thereof. This order will take effect from and after date, May 11, 1880. By order of the Board of County Commissioners of Redwood County. Fred V. Hotchkiss, Chairman. Attest: I. M. Van Schaack, County Auditor. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original order now on file in my office. I. M. Van Schaack, County Auditor. June 1, 1880, A. D."

At the annual meeting held at the home of Archibald Stewart on May 25, 1880, the following officers were elected: M. Keller, chairman; J. B. Holmes and Albert Deveraux, supervisors; W. C. Cook, clerk; Archibald Stewart, treasurer; Lucius Thurston and H. F. Jones, justices of the peace; Ole C. Johnson and Justin F. Jones, constables. At the annual meeting held at the home of W. C. Cook on March 8, 1881, the following officers were elected: M. Keller, chairman; J. B. Holmes and Ole C. Johnson, supervisors; C. L. Holms, assessor; W. C. Cook, clerk; Archie Stewart, treasurer; Hans Jensen, justice of the peace; Ole Boklep, constable. At the annual town meeting held at the schoolhouse of district No. 50, on March 14, 1882, the following officers were elected; M. Keller, chairman; Ole C. Johnson and J. B. Holms,

supervisors; W. C. Cook, clerk; Archie Stewart, treasurer; C. L. Holmes, assessor; C. L. Holmes, justice of the peace; Anton Weideman, constable. At the annual town meeting held in the schoolhouse of district No. 50, on March 13, 1883, the following officers were elected: M. Keller, chairman; Ole C. Johnson and William Smith, supervisors; W. C. Cook, clerk; Archie Stewart treasurer; C. L. Holmes, assessor; Hans Jenson, justice of the peace; Chris Keller, constable. At the annual town meeting held in the schoolhouse of district No. 50, on March 11, 1884, the following officers were elected: M. Keller chairman; William Smith and Ole C. Johnson supervisors; W. C. Cook, clerk; Archie Stewart, treasurer; C. L. Holmes, assessor; C. L. Holmes, justice of the peace. At the annual town meeting held in the schoolhouse of district No. 50, on March 10, 1885, the following officers were elected: Ole C. Johnson, chairman; J. Stadman and Hans Jensen, supervisors; W. C. Cook, clerk; J. A. Lagerstrom, treasurer; Anton Weideman and O. A. Hines, justices of the peace; C. Lagerstrom and J. W. Marceys, constables. At the annual town meeting held in the schoolhouse of district No. 50, on March 9, 1886, the following officers were elected: Ole C. Johnson, chairman; Anton Weideman and C. Keller, supervisors; W. C. Cook, clerk; J. A. Lagerstrom, treasurer; Hans Jensen, assessor. At the annual town meeting held in the schoolhouse of district No. 50, on March 8, 1887, the following officers were elected; William Smith, chairman; John Stewart and Ole C. Johnson, supervisors; W. C. Cook, clerk; O. A. Hines, treasurer; M. Keller, assessor; E. A. Pease and L. Thurston, justices of the peace; Chris Keller and Ole C. Johnson, constables. At the annual town meeting held in the schoolhouse of district No. 28, on March 13, 1888, the following officers were elected; William Smith, chairman; H. F. Jones and John Stewart, supervisors; W. C. Cook, clerk; O. A. Hines, treasurer; Archibald Stewart, assessor; C. Keller and Edward Deveraux, constables; W. Howes, justice of the peace.

At the annual town meeting held in the schoolhouse of district No. 28 on March 12, 1889, the following officers were elected: William Smith, chairman; John Stewart and Ole C. Johnson, supervisors; W. C. Cook, clerk; O. A. Hines, treasurer; E. M. Holmes, assessor; E. A. Pease and C. H. Jones, justices of the peace; Ole C. Johnson and Chris Keller, constables. At the annual town meeting held in the schoolhouse of district No. 50 on March 11, 1890, the following officers were elected: William Smith, chairman; John Stewart and H. F. Jones, supervisors; W. C. Cook, clerk; George Lipman, treasurer; A. M. Monson, assessor; C. H. Jones, justice of the peace; W. I. Howes, constable. At the annual town meeting held in the school house of district No. 50, on March 10, 1891, the following officers were



elected: William Smith, chairman; M. Keller and Bert Monson, supervisors; J. M. Thompson, clerk; George Lipman, treasurer; Andrew Monson, assessor; M. Listrud, justice of the peace; M. C. Lilleby, constable. At the annual town meeting held in the Simpson store in Belview on March 8, 1892, the following officers were elected: J. L. Dunning, chairman; Bert Monson and William Mack, supervisors; J. L. Thompson, clerk; S. O. Kollin, treasurer; Martin Listrud, assessor; A. O. Gimmetstad, justice of the peace; F. Koher and W. I. Howes, constables. Favor of license, 57; against license, 32. At the annual town meeting held in the A. Fromm wagon shop on March 14, 1893, the following officers were elected: E. A. Pease, chairman; B. Monson and William Mack, supervisors; J. L. Thompson, clerk; S. O. Kollin, treasurer; A. Monson, assessor; M. Keller, justice of the peace; S. F. Peterson and W. I. Howes, constables. At the annual town meeting held at the Simpson store in Belview, on March 13, 1894, the following officers were elected: E. A. Pease, chairman; B. Monson and William Mack, supervisors; A. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; S. O. Kollin, treasurer; C. H. Jones, assessor; E. M. Holmes, justice of the peace; O. A. Hines, constable. At the annual town meeting held in Kollins Hall, on March 12, 1895, the following officers were elected: E. A. Pease, chairman; A. Weideman and S. F. Peterson, supervisors; A. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; A. F. Potratz, treasurer; A. M. Monson, assessor; E. A. Pease, justice of the peace; Edward Erickson, constable. At the annual town meeting held on March 10, 1896, the following officers were elected: E. A. Pease, chairman; A. Weideman, supervisors; A. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; A. F. Potratz, treasurer; A. M. Monson, assessor; A. O. Gimmetstad, justice of the peace; R. Hoppenrath, constable. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview schoolhouse, on March 9, 1897, the following officers were elected: Grant Adsit, chairman; Wm. Mack and W. I. Howes, supervisors; A. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; A. F. Potratz, treasurer; C. H. Jones, assessor; O. A. Hines, justice of the peace; Ed Erickson, constable. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview schoolhouse, on March 8, 1898, the following officers were elected: Grant Adsit, chairman; Wm. Mack and W. I. Howes, supervisors; A. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; A. F. Potratz, treasurer; A. M. Monson, assessor; A. O. Gimmetstad, justice of the peace; G. Stenson, constable. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview schoolhouse, on March 14, 1899, the following officers were elected: G. E. Adsit, chairman; Wm. Mack and B. Monson, supervisors; A. O. Gimmetstad, clerk; A. F. Potratz, treasurer; A. M. Monson, assessor; Thomas McKay, justice of the peace; M. E. Lewis and Oscar Berger, constables.

At the annual town meeting held in the Belview schoolhouse, on March 12, 1900, the following officers were elected: G. E.



Adsit, chairman; Wm. Mack and B. Monson, supervisors; A. O. Gimmestad, clerk; A. F. Potratz, treasurer; A. M. Monson, assessor; A. O. Gimmestad, justice of the peace; Ben Simpson and John McKowen, constables. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview schoolhouse, on March 12, 1901, the following officers were elected: G. E. Adsit, chairman; Wm. Mack and B. Monson, supervisors; A. O. Gimmestad, clerk; A. F. Potratz, treasurer; Daniel McKay, assessor; Thomas McKay, justice of the peace. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview schoolhouse, on March 11, 1902, the following officers were elected: Herman Kaiser, chairman; L. T. Braafladt and Andrew Anderson, supervisors; A. O. Gimmestad, clerk; A. F. Potratz, treasurer; Daniel McKay, assessor; A. O. Gimmestad and W. D. Tibbitts, justices of the peace; Helmuth Hagen and John McKowen, constables. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview schoolhouse, on March 10, 1903, the following officers were elected: H. Kaiser, chairman; L. T. Braafladt and Andrew Anderson, supervisors; A. M. Monson, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; Daniel McKay, assessor; A. M. Stewart, justice of the peace. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview schoolhouse, on March 8, 1904, the following officers were elected: H. Kaiser, chairman; L. T. Braafladt and A. Anderson, supervisors; A. M. Monson, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; D. McKay, assessor; Henry Dreyer and G. E. Adsit, justices of the peace; Peter McKay and Wm. Peterson, constables. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview fire house on March 14, 1905, the following officers were elected: A. Anderson, supervisor, three years; L. T. Braafladt, supervisor, two years; H. Kaiser, supervisor, one year; A. M. Monson, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; Daniel McKay, assessor. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview fire house on March 13, 1906, the following officers were elected: L. T. Braafladt, supervisor, three years; A. M. Monson, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; G. E. Adsit, assessor; H. A. Dreyer and G. E. Adsit, justices of the peace; Wm. Mack and John Oslund, constables. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview Fire Hall, on March 12, 1907, the following officers were elected: Helmuth Hagen, supervisor; Daniel McKay, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; Wm. Mack, assessor; Ole O. Falaas, justice of the peace. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview Fire Hall on March 10, 1908, the following officers were elected: Andrew Anderson, supervisor; Daniel McKay, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; Wm. Mack, assessor; G. E. Adsit and H. A. Dreyer, justices of the peace; Wm. Mack, constable. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview fire house, on March 9, 1909, the following officers were elected: John W. Hines, supervisor; Daniel McKay, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; Wm. Mack, assessor; G. E. Adsit and A. M. Monson, justices of the

peace; John Oslund and Wm. Peterson, constables. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview fire house on March 8, 1910, the following officers were elected: Helmuth Hagen, supervisor; Daniel McKay, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; Wm. Mack, assessor; G. E. Adsit, justice of the peace; Albert Smith and G. E. Adsit, constables. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview fire house, on March 14, 1911, the following officers were elected: Andrew Anderson, supervisor; Daniel McKay, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; Wm. Mack, assessor; A. M. Monson, justice of the peace; Wm. Peterson, constable. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview fire house, on March 12, 1912, the following officers were elected: Nils J. Haagenon, supervisor; A. M. Monson, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; Wm. Mack, assessor; G. E. Adsit, justice of the peace; J. M. Johnson, constable. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview fire house, on March 11, 1913, the following officers were elected: Alfred Hultquist, supervisor; John Hines (by lot), clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; Wm. Mack, assessor; S. W. Nelson, justice of the peace; Geo. Kuck and Albert Nelson, constables. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview fire hall on March 10, 1914, the following officers were elected: Andrew Anderson, supervisor; John Hines, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; Wm. Mack, assessor; H. F. Hagen, justice of the peace. At the annual town meeting held in the Belview Fire Hall on March 9, 1915, the following officers were elected: Nils J. Haagenon, supervisor; Daniel McKay, clerk; S. F. Peterson, treasurer; A. M. Monson, assessor; S. W. Nelson, justice of the peace; Albert Nelson, constable.

The History of Minnesota Valley, published in 1882, says: "Lyman Walsh, who came in the summer of 1872. and located in the southwestern part of the town, was the first settler. Soon after Mr. Walsh, Albert Devreaux came in and settled where he now lives. Archibald Stewart came the following fall."

### DELHI TOWNSHIP.

Delhi township is located on the north-central border of Redwood county, and comprises Congressional fractional townships 113-36 and 114-36. It is bounded on the north by the Minnesota river, on the east by Honner, on the west by Kintire, and on the south by Redwood Falls, and half a mile of Sheridan, due to the irregularity of half a mile in the survey. Ramsey creek crosses it on the southern side, and Rice creek flows northeast in the northwest part of this township. The surface is rolling and well-watered. The Pacific division of the Minneapolis and St. Louis passes through the center from east to west. The only village is Delhi with a population in 1910 of 174. The trading

centers are Delhi and Redwood Falls. There are three school-houses. The predominating nationality is American and Scotch, the township being the center of the Scotch settlement in Redwood county.

The original survey of 113-36 was begun Jan. 10, 1858, and finished Oct. 10, 1858, by W. R. McMahan, U. S. deputy surveyor. He described the surface as rolling and well-watered, and the soil, generally, first rate. He found some fine groves of timber along the river bluffs and bottom. Among the kinds of trees were cottonwood, bur oak, willow, timber oak, ash and elm. The road to Yellow Medicine entered this township near the southeast corner and passed out at the northwest corner. An Indian trail passed across the southern part of this township. A lake was found in the southwest corner in sections 29, 30, 31 and 32.

The original survey of 114-36 this township, was begun Oct. 20, 1858, and finished Oct. 24, 1858, by W. R. McMahan, U. S. deputy surveyor. He described the surface as high and rolling. The Minnesota river bottoms and bluffs were covered with small groves of timber including maple, hackberry, elm, willow, red cedar, bur oak, cottonwood, and white oak. The soil was first rate.

Beginning with the organization of the county, Delhi was considered a part of Redwood Falls. Delhi township was created February 1, 1878, and consisted of all of township 113-36 in this county. Fractional township 114-36 (which since September 4, 1872, had been a part of Swedes Forest) was added to Delhi, May 11, 1880, thus giving it its present boundaries.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1881 says: "The first town meeting was held at Worden & Ruter's mill in section 36, February 19, 1876. Officers elected: Thomas H. King, chairman, George Stronach and John Anderson, supervisors; James Anderson, clerk; Daniel McLean, treasurer; Alex McCorquodale, assessor; Isaac Leslie and Extra Ticknor, justices; George Gaffney and John Whittet, constables, and David Whittet, overseer of highways. The first settler was Carl Simondet, who came in 1865 and settled on section 13, where he lived until 1880, when he died. His son, who also took a claim in 1865, now lives on the old homestead. There appeared no settlers until 1868, when John and James Anderson and Alex. McCorquodale came in. The first birth was that of Christina, a daughter of Isaac and Margaret Leslie, January 18, 1873. The first marriage was that of Andrew Stewart and Miss Kate McLean in December, 1872. John McLean died June 20, 1877, and was buried in the cemetery at Redwood Falls; the first death in the town. The first school was taught by Miss Thora McNiven, with seven pupils, in section 20, during the summer of 1873; there are three organized dis-

tricts in the town and but two school houses. In the summer of 1870 religious services were held at the home of John McLean by Rev. R. G. Wallace, Presbyterian minister. During the winter of 1870-1871, an organization was effected by the Rev. J. L. Whitta, with thirteen members. They now have a membership of twenty-eight."

### HONNER TOWNSHIP.

Honner township is located on the north side of Redwood county and embraces the Congressional fractional township 113-35 and fractional section 31, township 113-34 and east by the Minnesota river on the west by Delhi, and on the south by Paxton, also Redwood Falls there being a variation of half a mile made in the survey. Little Crow creek crosses it on the eastern side and empties into the Minnesota river. The Redwood river crosses the northwest corner of it and also empties into the Minnesota river. The Pacific division of the Minneapolis and St. Louis crosses this township passing in a northwesterly direction. The surface is partly rolling and partly level. The northeast part of Redwood Falls city is located in this township. The village of North Redwood is located near the place where the Redwood river joins the Minnesota. The trading centers are Redwood Falls, in Redwood county, and Morton in Renville county. There is one school house. The predominating nationality is German and American.

The original survey of this township was started September 15, 1858, by W. R. McMahan, U. S. deputy sheriff. All of the survey was done during 1858. The land was rolling and level, about the same amount of each. The soil was first rate. The Minnesota river extending along the north and east boundary of this township. There was quite a good deal of timber and many kinds of trees such as burr oak, ash, elm, boxelders, and hackberry. Toward the west and south were a few trails and Indian fields. A stony ridge was found in parts of sections 33 and 28.

Beginning with the organization of the county, Honner was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Before Honner was organized several attempts were made to organize Blackwood. On petition, May 3, 1872, the commissioners created Blackwood, consisting of township 112-35 and all of 113-35 in this county. But the action was reconsidered and laid on the table until a future meeting. June 4, 1872, Blackwood was created, consisting of township 112-35 and all of township 113-35 in this county except sections 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32. Paxton was created July 30, 1879. Honner was created by the county commissioners, Jan. 10, 1880. It then consisted of all of township 113-35 in this county, and was named Baldwin. Feb.

10, 1880, the name was changed to Honner. On March 17, 1881, fractional section 31, township 113-34 was added to Honner township.

The first settler in Honner township was George Johnson and his son, Marion, who came to Redwood county in 1864, and settled on the south shore of Tiger lake. The next year, Hugh Curry took a claim in the township. J. S. G. Honner, for whom the township was named, was one of the first settlers of Redwood Falls, and later took a claim on the Minnesota river in what is now Honner township.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says:

"A village was laid out partly in each of sections 20 and 29, on land owned by E. B. Daniels, about 1876, and called Riverside. A store, an elevator, a hotel, a blacksmith shop and a few other buildings were put up; a post-office was also established. The town was not a success; the hotel and elevator were moved into Redwood Falls, and there remain but two small buildings on the site. In 1869, E. Birum & Brother built a water-power saw-mill in section 30 on the Redwood river. It continued in operation as such until 1879, when it was changed to a grist-mill. It now has two run of stone, and is operated by E. Birum, the present proprietor. The German Evangelical congregation held services at the house of Bernhard Kunzli in section 29, in 1867, conducted by the Rev. Hillscher. An organization was effected by the Rev. Schmidt in 1880, with seventeen members.

"A school was taught in 1876, in an old building in section 21, by Alice Patton; she had about twelve pupils. This was the only school taught in town as it was divided into joint districts, one part going to Redwood Falls, and the other to District 2, in Paxton township. The first birth was that of Frederick, a son of J. S. G. Honner and wife. He was born Oct. 24, 1868. The first death was that of a little daughter of George and Mary E. Johnson, who died in October, 1868. The first marriage was that of William Davis and Mahala Johnson in the spring of 1867.

"The first town meeting was held at the house of David Watson, in section 31, Jan. 24, 1881. The officers elected were: Supervisors, Henry Birum (chairman), Marion Johnson, Stephen Russell; Clerk, J. K. Deming; assessor, J. S. G. Honner; treasurer, R. W. Rockwell; justice, David Watson; constable, G. B. Dove."

Honner township now has from 28 to 32 voters. Shoemaker's hall is the voting place. The supervisors are M. Anderson, A. H. Seebeck and F. J. Hoepner. H. R. Simondet is the clerk. The justice of the peace and the constable have not qualified. The early records of the township have not been preserved, the present records in the possession of the clerk dating back only to 1905.

**UNDERWOOD TOWNSHIP.**

Underwood township is located in the northwest corner of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 112-39. It is bounded on the north by Yellow Medicine county, on the east by Vesta township and on the south by Westline township, and on the west by Lyon county. The Redwood river flows in an easterly direction through the central part. The surface is high rolling prairie. There are no railroads passing through the township and the township has no villages. The trading centers are Vesta, Milroy and Redwood Falls in Redwood county and Marshall and Cottonwood in Lyon county. There are four school houses. The predominating nationalities are German, Scotch and American.

The original survey of this township was begun July 20, and completed August 16, 1867. The work was done by Richard H. L. Jewett and George C. Home, U. S. deputy surveyors. They described the land as high, rolling prairie with soil of the first quality growing lighter and more sandy as approaching the river while along the line between the prairie and bottom land the soil became gravelly and second rate. There were two small lakes in the northwest part. There was but little timber. A road was found running through the central part of the township in a westerly direction.

Beginning with September 4, 1876, Underwood township was a part of Yellow Medicine township, and after Yellow Medicine county was organized March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Underwood was created with its present boundaries April 13, 1876, and an election ordered to be held at the home of Levi Ten Eyck, May 2, 1876.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says: "Levi Ten Eyck, who located on section 20, in August, 1869, was the first actual settler. George and Charles Mead, Archie and William Stewart, John Noble, Archie McLean and R. H. McKittrick came the next year. May 2, 1876, the town was organized; the first officers were: William Cahoon, chairman, Malcom McNiven and A. H. Morgan, supervisors; Daniel McNiven, clerk; R. H. McKittrick, assessor; Levi Ten Eyck, treasurer; Archie Noble and James McKay, justices; Collin Mattheson and James Gilkey, constables. There was no school till the winter of 1879, when Mrs. William Simmons taught at home. Box Elder post-office was established in 1879, and Eben Martin appointed postmaster. The first marriage was James McKay and Anna Monroe, by Rev. Mr. Simmons, 1877. The first birth was Van Dyke, son of Levi Ten Eyck, born March 20, 1870. A son of Henry Johnson died in 1877, the first death."

**VESTA TOWNSHIP.**

Vesta township is located in the northwestern part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 112-38. It is bounded on the north by Yellow Medicine county and half a mile of Kintire, due to the mistake in the survey; on the east by Sheridan, on the south by Granite Rock, and on the west by Underwood. The Redwood river flows eastwardly through the central part of it. The surface is generally rolling. The Sanborn-Vesta branch of the Chicago and Northwestern enters it on the east side and passes in a northwesterly direction to the center of the township, stopping at Vesta. The only village is Vesta. The trading centers are Vesta, Echo, Seaforth and Redwood Falls. There are six school houses. The predominating nationality is Bohemian and German.

The original survey of this township was begun August 15, 1859, and finished August 23, 1859, by Mahlon Black, U. S. deputy surveyor. He described the surface as generally rolling and marshy. The soil, where it was not marshy, was of a first rate quality. The land was all prairie with no timber. A wagon road passed east and west through the center of this township.

Beginning with September 4, 1866, Vesta was a part of Yellow Medicine township, and after Yellow Medicine county was organized March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Vesta was created with its present boundaries, May 11, 1880.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says: "The first claim was taken by William Smith in the fall of 1868 on section 14. He was followed by Mathias and Hubbard Burgess, Hiram Eldredge, George and Albert Dunning, in May 1869. The town was set apart for organization May 11, 1880, and the first election was ordered held at the house of Sarah McIntosh, May 29 following. The name was given by Commissioner Hotchkiss after the goddess Vesta. The first school was taught by Mrs. Mary Reed in 1872, at the house of Hubbard Burgess; schools are still conducted in private houses. Religious services have been conducted by the Methodist society for several years at private houses. The first marriage was that of S. Holson and Eliza Burgess in the winter of 1873. The first death was an infant daughter of William Smith, that died in November, 1870, and was buried on the farm.

**SHERIDAN TOWNSHIP.**

Sheridan township is located in the north-central part of Redwood county and embraces Congressional township 112-37. It is bounded on the north by Kintire and a half mile of Delhi, on the east by Redwood Falls, on the south by Vail, and on the



west by Vesta. Redwood river flows through its central part in an easterly and north easterly direction. The surface is rolling prairie. The Vesta-Sanborn branch of the Chicago and Northwestern crosses its southwest corner. Its only village is Seaforth with a population in 1915 of 146 persons. The trading centers are Seaforth, Redwood Falls, Vesta, and Belview. There are eight school houses. The predominating nationality is German.

The original survey of this township was made during 1864 by Charles Davis and James Webb, Jr., U. S. Deputy surveyors. The work was started on August 13, 1864. The township had very few wet marshes or swamps. The land was rolling prairie and meadow. The soil was first rate. The Redwood river ran through the township, but owing to the dry season was very low. The banks were for the most part from four to six feet high and therefore were not likely to overflow. There was no timber excepting small clusters of cottonwood and willow along the Redwood river. The Sioux Indian reservation line extended through sections 12, 11, 2 and 3 of this township. A road ran nearly straight east and west in the south of the township through sections 25 and 30 inclusive.

The west part of Sheridan township was included in Yellow Medicine township by act of the county commissioners March 2, 1868, and the east part was considered a part of Redwood Falls township beginning with the organization of the county. January 4, 1870, the commissioners created Holton, with the present boundaries of Sheridan. A change of name to Sheridan was authorized by the commissioners September 8, 1870.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says: "The town was organized January 22, 1870, at the house of George Reiber. The names of Holton, Bath and Sheridan were voted upon as the name for the town, and the result proved in favor of Sheridan. The following officers were elected: George Reiber, chairman, Chester Fisk and George G. Sandford, supervisors; D. V. Francis, clerk; Daniel Thompson, assessor; John Holton, treasurer; Edwin Payne and Thomas Barr, justices; Adolph Leonard and Robert Thompson, constables. In May, 1868, Charles Holton came in, bringing his wife, a daughter and four sons. Mr. Holton selected a claim in section twelve. The two oldest sons, John and Laurence, took claims in section fourteen. A house was built on Mr. Holton's claim, where they all lived during the first winter. Mr. Holton died in December, 1878. In the fall of 1868, George Reiber located on section 10, followed in 1869 by Robert Thompson. The first school was taught in the summer of 1874, in a building on section 6, erected for the purpose; there are now three school-houses. Weldon post-office was established in 1873, with Thomas Barr, postmaster; the office was discontinued after a few years. The first marriage was Adolph Leonard and

Bertha Holton, in 1872. Albert E. Clark, born September 26, 1872, was the first birth. The first death was Annie, wife of Laurence Holton, who died August 29, 1872."

### REDWOOD FALLS TOWNSHIP.

Redwood Falls township is located in the northeast central part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 112-36. It is bounded on the north by Delhi and half a mile of Honner, caused by the variation in the survey, on the east by Paxton, on the south by New Avon, and on the west by Sheridan. The Redwood river crosses its northern part, flowing in a northeasterly direction and passing out through section 1. The Sleepy Eye-Redwood Falls branch of the Chicago and Northwestern enters it in section 1 and stops at the city of Redwood Falls. The surface is level in the southern part and rolling in the northern part. The trading center and only city is Redwood Falls. There are six schoolhouses. The predominating nationality is American.

The original survey was made by James L. Nowlin, U. S. deputy surveyor, who started September 3, 1858, and finished September 8, of the same year. He described the surface as level or rolling. The soil was generally of the best quality. He found a little timber in this township, including oak, ash, maple and elm. A wagon road crossed in the northeast and southwest direction through the northern part of the township. An Indian trail was also found in the northern part of the township.

From the organization of the county, the whole county was considered a part of Redwood Falls township unless definitely created into another township. The township however had not been definitely created by the commissioners, and to remedy this defect, the commissioners created it on Jan. 7, 1880, and ordered an election held at the Court House, Jan. 22, 1880. Town meetings were regularly held in the township from April 3, 1866, and an act of the legislature later legalized all acts between that date and Jan. 22, 1880.

The early history of Redwood Falls township is identical with that of the village.

### PAXTON TOWNSHIP.

Paxton township is located in the northeast central part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 112-35. It is bounded on the north by Honner, on the east by Sherman, on the south by Three Lakes, and on the west by Redwood Falls. Little Crow creek runs in a north and east direction in the northern part of this township. The surface is level in some places and

rolling in others. The Sleepy Eye-Redwood Falls branch of the Chicago and Northwestern crosses it diagonally from the southeast to the northwest corner. Its only station is Gilfillan, consisting of a few houses. The extreme eastern portion of Redwood Falls is also in this township. The trading centers are Morgan and Redwood Falls, in Redwood county, and Morton in Renville county. There are five schoolhouses. The predominating nationality is American, many being of eastern and Scotch-American ancestry. The Indian agency with its school, church and colony is in this township.

The original survey of this township was made during the year 1858. It was started by James L. Nowlin, U. S. deputy surveyor, on September 9, 1858. The surface was rolling generally but level in some places. The soil was for the most part first rate. No large lakes or streams were found. Several Indian fields were found, especially in the north and east parts. The township was full of trails crossing and joining one another. Only a little timber was found, burr oak toward the east, and both red oak and linden toward the center and west.

Beginning with the organization of the county, Paxton was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Paxton was created by the county commissioners with its present boundaries July 30, 1879, and the first meeting ordered held Sept. 13, 1879, at the school house in District 20. Before Paxton was organized, several attempts were made to organize Blackwood. On petition on May 3, 1872, the commissioners created Blackwood, consisting of township 112-35 and all of 113-35 lying in this county. But the action was reconsidered, and laid on the table until a future meeting. June 4, 1872, Blackwood was created, consisting of township 112-35 and all of township 113-35 in this county, except sections 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1884 says: "Paxton was named in honor of J. W. Paxton, who once owned the large tract of land now owned by O. B. Turrell. The first town meeting was held September 13, 1879; officers elected: William Perry, chairman; Z. Y. Hatch and Benjamin Wolf, supervisors; S. F. Cale, clerk; A. A. Wilson, treasurer; D. R. Morrison and W. W. Byington, justices; C. E. Goodwin and Charles Tyrrell, constables. The first settlers were John McMillan, Sr., and son James, Paul Brott, Norman Webster, George Johnson and C. D. Chapman. The farm allotted to the Indian Chief, Little Crow, was in this town; a number of buildings had been erected by the government for the Indians, and these the settlers occupied on their arrival. The first school was taught by Mary Bailey in the winter of 1866-7, supported by subscription. The next year a building was erected; there are now two frame school houses in the town. The first religious service was held in the

fall of 1870, by a Presbyterian, Rev. Lyon. The Advent denomination formed a society in 1876, under the leadership of Elders Grant and Dimmick; the present leader is Elder C. D. Chapman. Paxton village was surveyed in 1878, on section 26; a small store was conducted by the Cale Brothers, a couple of years, the only improvement made. The postoffice was established in 1878 with S. F. Cale postmaster; Harvey Moore now has the office at his house near the station."

### SHERMAN TOWNSHIP.

Sherman township is located in the northeast corner of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional fractional township 112-34. It is bounded on the north by the Minnesota river, on the east by Brown county, on the south by Morgan, on the west by Paxton. Wabasha river flows in a northeasterly direction through the central part of this township. It has no station nor railroad. The surface is level or gently rolling and high. The trading centers are Morton in Renville county and Morgan and Redwood Falls in Redwood county. There are four school houses. The predominating nationality is German.

The original survey was begun August 9, 1858, and finished August 13, 1858, by James A. Nowlin, U. S. deputy surveyor. He described the land as level or rolling and high. The soil was first rate in nearly every case. This township had numerous Indian farms. The timber was scarce except along the Minnesota river, which entered this township in section 6 and passed in a southeasterly direction, leaving the township in section 24. The following kinds of trees were found: oak, elm, hackberry, ash, willow, burr oak, aspen, lind, cottonwood, maple, and boxelder. The Sioux Agency road extended northwest and southeast through the center of the township.

Beginning with the organization of the county, Sherman was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Sherman township was created by the county commissioners Sept. 7, 1869. The township was described as follows: "All the territory of township 112, range 34, and all the territory of township 113, range 34, lying south of the Minnesota river." This was intended to mean all that part of both townships lying south of the river, but it was held that the words "lying south of the Minnesota river" applied only to township 113, range 34, and that as part of this area lay in Renville county, the creation of the county was illegal. Consequently, on Feb. 10, 1880, the township was recreated, consisting of that part of 112-34 lying south of the Minnesota. The boundaries have thus remained to the present day. That part of township 113-34 lying south of the Minnesota (a fractional part of a section) was included in Honner by legislative enactment.

The story of the Lower Sioux Agency established in this township in 1853 is told elsewhere in this work, as is the story of the Massacre. The old stone house erected by the government is still standing, and various markers and monuments mark historic sites in the township.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1884 says: "Of the settlers who came after the Massacre J. J. Light was the first; he came in the spring of 1866. Claims were taken later by James and John Arnold, Cassius Frazier and George Cary. The first death was that of Mrs. John Wall, in the spring of 1868. The first marriage was that of M. S. Hamblen and Clara J. Bailey. The latter taught the first school in the town in the summer of 1870, in an old log building on section 8; there were eight scholars. There are now two frame school houses in the town. Lower Sioux Agency postoffice was established about 1868 at the house of James Arnold. The office has had several changes and is now in charge of R. H. Warren at his house.

"The first town meeting was ordered by the Commissioners to be held at the home of Joseph Poppet, but it was actually held at the house of A. E. Kneipple in section 8, October 4, 1869. The name was given in honor of Gen. William T. Sherman, the famous hero. The officers for that year were: J. J. Light, chairman, A. E. McCarty and M. C. Tower, supervisors; M. S. Hamblen, clerk; James Stephens, treasurer; J. M. Little, justice; J. F. Deitzmann and O. C. Dwyer, constables. No assessor elected until the following spring, when O. W. Newton assumed the office."

### WESTLINE TOWNSHIP.

Westline township is located in the northwest part of Redwood county bordering on the west side, and embraces Congressional township 111-39. It is bounded on the north by Underwood, on the east by Granite Rock, on the south by Gales townships, and on the west by Lyon county. The surface is generally rolling, but marshy in some places. The Evan-Marshall division of the Chicago and Northwestern passes through it in a northwest direction in the central part. Its only village is Milroy. The trading centers are Milroy, Lucan and Redwood Falls, in Redwood county, and Marshall in Lyon county. There are five school houses. The predominating nationality is German, Scandinavian and American.

The original survey of this township was begun July 15, 1867, and finished July 30, 1867. The work was done by Richard H. L. Jewett and George G. Howe, U. S. deputy surveyors. They described the soil as of the first quality in two-thirds of the township; the remainder being light and sandy. Most of the marshes were full of water although the surface was generally

rolling. No streams were found. Three small lakes required meandering. There was no timber in the township.

Beginning with Sept. 4, 1866, Westline was included in Yellow Medicine township, and after Yellow Medicine county was organized, March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Westline was created by the county commissioners, Sept. 25, 1878, with its present boundaries.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882, says: "Settlement began in 1872. In May, of that year, Michael Murray and his sons, Thomas and Garrett, with families, came in and located in section 14, where they still remain excepting Thomas, who went to Colorado in 1877. John Cole came in 1873. The town was organized Oct. 14, 1878, at the house of H. N. Eggleston. The following officers were elected: C. West, chairman; Garrett Murray and James Shaw, supervisors; Benjamin C. Frost, clerk; Hugh Curry, treasurer; H. N. Eggleston and N. B. Weymouth, justices; and William Arnold, constable. There are three frame school houses in the town. The first school was taught by Ada Chamberlain during the spring of 1879. West Line postoffice was established in the fall of 1878, N. B. Weymouth was appointed postmaster and the office located at his house in section 26. The office was discontinued in the summer of 1880. A Mr. Webster and Jane Shaw were married at the house of G. M. Shaw in the spring of 1879. This was the first marriage in the town. The first birth was that of Patrick Murray, in February, 1875. He was a son of Thomas and Honora Murray. The first death was that of Oscar Eggleston, a son of H. N. Eggleston. He died December 13, 1881, and was buried at Marshall, in Lyon county."

### **GRANITE ROCK TOWNSHIP.**

Granite Rock township is located in the west central part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 111-38. It is bounded on the north by Vesta, on the east by Vail, on the south by Johnsonville, and on the west by Westline. A branch of the Redwood river crosses it on the northern side, flowing in a northeasterly direction. The Evan-Marshall branch of the Chicago and Northwestern passes due east and west through its center. The surface is generally rolling. Its only village is Lucan. The trading centers are Lucan, Vesta, Wabasso, and Redwood Falls. There are five school houses. The predominating nationality is German.

The original survey of this township was done by Mahlon Black, U. S. deputy surveyor, being begun January 4, 1859, and finished July 12, 1859. He described the land as generally rolling and the soil as first class, although some of the western portion of this township was of an inferior quality. There were no roads



and no timber. He found a small lake in sections 17 and 20; also one in sections 13 and 18.

Beginning with Sept. 4, 1866, Granite Rock was a part of Yellow Medicine township, and after Yellow Medicine county was organized March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Granite Rock township was created by the commissioners between July, 1889, and July, 1900.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1884 says: "Although settlement began in 1872, this township remains unorganized, being the only one in the county in that condition. The first settler was J. C. Vining, who came in the spring of 1871, and located in section 2, where he lived until 1876; W. W. Howe came the following fall, and took a claim also in section 2; his family came out in the spring of 1872, and is still living on his original claim. No other settlers came until 1874, when a few came in and took claims, but moved away after a short stay, on account of the grasshoppers. Settlers began to move in again in 1877. The first marriage in the town occurred in December, 1881. The contracting parties were Charles Noah and Sarah Comstock. The first birth was that of Abbie F. Howe, a daughter of W. W. and Sarah Howe, born July 2, 1872."

Even as late as June 2, 1885, there were only seven families in Granite Rock township. The families were those of Henry Gohrman, Angus Currie, Joseph McGeough, Alexander McLeod, W. W. Howe, Nelson Comstock, and William Comstock. The Gohrmans were from Germany, the Curries from Canada, the McGeoughs from Ireland, the McLeods from Scotland, the Howes from Michigan and the Comstocks from Iowa and New York.

### **VAIL TOWNSHIP.**

Vail township is located in the central part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 111-37. It is bounded on the north by Sheridan, on the east by New Avon, on the south by Waterbury and on the west by Granite Rock. A small branch of the Redwood river passes across the northwest corner of it. The Vesta-Sanborn branch of the Chicago and Northwestern crosses it from north to south and the Evan-Marshall branch of the same road passes across it from east to west. The surface is rolling, but marshy in the central part. The only village is Wabasso. The trading centers are Wabasso and Redwood Falls. There are four school houses. The predominating nationality is German.

The original survey of this township was made during 1859, work having been begun by M. Black, U. S. deputy surveyor, on June 23, 1859. The soil was generally first class and rolling, except in the marshy places toward the center. There were no



trees worth mentioning. A small stream ran through the northwest corner of section 6.

Beginning with March 2, 1868, the western part of the township was included in Yellow Medicine township, and after Yellow Medicine county was organized March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township, together with the eastern part which had been considered a part of Redwood Falls township since the organization of Redwood county. Vail was created by the commissioners July 30, 1879, and given the name of Center. It was found, however, that another township in the county bore that name, and on August 29, 1879, the name was changed to Vail in honor of Fred Vail Hotchkiss, a member of the county board.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says: "John Tabor was the first settler; he came in the spring of 1869 and located in section 4. James Longbottom came in October and settled in section 8. The next settlers were A. Milloy, M. McMillan and Henry Meyer. The first town meeting was held at James Longbottom's house, Sept. 16, 1879, and the following officers were elected: James Longbottom, chairman, David Weaver and Archibald Milloy, supervisors; John Longbottom, clerk; Chauncey Bunday, assessor; Henry Meyer, treasurer; Theodore Daub and John Tabor, justices; Henry Meyer and James Longbottom, constables. The first marriage was that of John A. Peterson and Elizabeth Longbottom. They were married in January, 1875, at the residence of James Longbottom in section 8, by the Rev. Chamberlain."

### NEW AVON TOWNSHIP.

New Avon township is located in the central part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 111-36. It is bounded on the north by Redwood Falls, on the east by Three Lakes, on the south by Willow Lake, and on the west by Vail. The surface is level or gently rolling. The Evan-Marshall branch of the Chicago and Northwestern crosses it from east to west in the southern part. Its only station is Rowena, consisting of an elevator, a store, a school house, and several homes. The trading centers are Morgan and Redwood Falls. There are four school houses. The predominating nationality is German.

The original survey was begun July 7, 1858, by James L. Nowlin, U. S. deputy surveyor. It was finished Sept. 2, 1858. This township had some marshes and ponds and one small lake in section 6. The surface was found to be quite level but rolling in some places, and the soil was first rate, generally speaking. There were no roads and no timber.

Beginning with the organization of the county, this township was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Avon township was created with the present boundaries of New Avon, Sept. 4, 1872. There being another township of this name in the state, the name was changed to New Avon on Jan. 7, 1873.

A number of claims were filed in 1868-69, but the first actual settlements were made in 1870. George I. Davis, at present a resident of the township, passed through this region in 1870, but did not remain. Later John Turnbull, Henry Blanchard, James Johnson, and Ira Holliday settled in the township. These people were all there when J. S. Towle arrived with his wife and three children, May 15, 1871. He had spent the previous winter in Redwood Falls. April 20, 1871, George I. Davis arrived. Other settlers this year were D. L. Scriven, Daniel McPhee, John McPhee, J. L. Duncan, and Thomas Wolverton, all of these people were of Scotch, English and American ancestry. Jacob Werder, who arrived in 1872, was the first of the Germans who have since so thickly settled in the township. Mr. Johnson had a log house, the others were of board, though the house of Mr. Davis and several of the others was reinforced with sod. The roof of Mr. Towle's house was one which he took with him from Redwood Falls, where he had roofed over a cabin for winter habitation.

In 1873, on the afternoon of the great blizzard, Mr. Towle and his young son, William, and Mr. Davis were getting rails on the Minnesota bottoms some three miles from Redwood Falls. The day was unusually warm and the men were working without their coats. Suddenly the snow began to fall so thickly that the tops of the trees were obscured. The three took refuge in Redwood Falls, where the Towles stayed for two days. Mr. Davis, after spending the night in the village became so worried about his family and his stock that he set out during the terrible storm and reached his home in safety.

The first town meeting in New Avon was held Sept. 5, 1872, at the home of J. S. Towle with some ten or twelve voters in attendance. The following officers were elected: Supervisors, J. S. Towle (chairman), James Johnson and Ira Holliday; clerk, John Turnbull; treasurer, Henry Blanchard; assessor, David Worst; justice of the peace, J. P. Towle. Of the men who attended this meeting, only Mr. Davis and Mr. Towle are now living.

The New Avon postoffice with J. S. Towle as postmaster flourished some twelve years. It was not on the regular stage route and the mail was supposed to be brought in a sack from Redwood Falls twice a week. There was often, however, considerable irregularity, as whoever was driving to the village usually brought out the mail.

There is a town cemetery in the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 8. The first burial was that of Henry

Blanchard, the pioneer. There is a church cemetery in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 22.

The first religious services were conducted by Rev. Taylor, a Presbyterian, in the summer of 1873. In September, 1879, the Methodist society was organized; services are conducted by Rev. Pemberton. The first meetings were held in 1874, under the leadership of Rev. Smith. The first school was taught by Flora McNiven, in 1872; there are now three frame school houses in the town. The first marriage was George Davis and Ellen Winslow, Dec. 24, 1872, by J. S. Towle. The first birth was John, son of James Johnson, in 1872. The first death was that of Isabella, daughter of D. M. Scriven, Jan. 21, 1874. For a time a creamery flourished in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 28.

### THREE LAKES TOWNSHIP.

Three Lakes township is located in the east-central part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 111-35. It is bounded on the north by Paxton, on the east by Morgan, on the south by Sundown and on the west by New Avon. The Evan-Marshall branch of the Chicago and Northwestern crosses it in the southern part; and the Sleepy Eye-Redwood Falls branch of the same road passes through the northeast corner. The surface is smooth prairie land. There are two lakes of fairly good size in this township. The only village is Clements. The trading centers are Morgan and Redwood Falls, in Redwood county, and Springfield in Brown county. There are four school houses. The predominating nationality is German, with quite a few Bohemians.

The original survey of this township was made during 1858, work being started by James L. Nowlin, U. S. deputy surveyor, on July 7, 1858. This township was mostly rich, smooth prairie. The timber was scarce. There was one lake in parts of sections 4 and 9 and another in parts of sections 8 and 9. There were quite a good many low marshy places all through the township.

Beginning with the organization of the county, this township was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Three Lakes was created by the county commissioners with its present boundaries March 16, 1876.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says: "The first claim was made in the spring of 1868 by David Watson; the claim was jumped by two men, Hunt and Walker; they put up a shanty and lived there for a time, but in 1869 Watson regained possession. Settlers of 1869 were David Parker, Henry Blanchard, Ora A. and Oland Sisson, Mike Mahoney and A. J. Welch. Mary Tenney taught the first school in 1874; a frame school house was built in 1876. Three Lakes postoffice was estab-

lished in 1875, and discontinued in two years. The first town meeting was held at the house of David Watson, April 4, 1876. Officers elected: James Watson, chairman, Robert Parker and Abel Leighton, supervisors; Daniel Watson, clerk; Robert Parker, assessor; Robert Montgomery, treasurer; James and David Watson, justices; David Parker and Albert Dahms, constables; Robert Montgomery, poundmaster."

According to the records now in the possession of H. N. Redig, town clerk, the above information regarding the first meeting is incorrect. Mr. Redig's transcript of the minutes of the first meeting is as follows: "The first town meeting was held at the home of David Watson, April 4, 1876. Robert Parker was appointed clerk of the meeting, James Watson, moderator, and David Watson and Thomas Moore, judges of election. Ballots were then cast for town officers as follows: Chairman, James Watson, 8 votes; supervisors, Robert Parker 7 votes, Louis White 6 votes; Justices, David Watson 7 votes, Thomas Moore 7 votes; clerk, Louis White 6 votes; treasurer, Robert Montgomery 5 votes; assessor, Robert Parker 5 votes; constable, Albert Dahms 9 votes; overseer of the poor, Albert Leighton 3 votes; overseer of roads, James Watson 5 votes; poundmaster, Robert Parker."

### MORGAN TOWNSHIP.

Morgan township is located in the east central part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 111-34. It is bounded on the north by Sherman, on the east by Brown county, on the south by Brookville, and on the west by Three Lakes. The Sleepy Eye-Redwood Falls branch of the Chicago and Northwestern crosses it diagonally from the southeast to the northwest corner. The surface is low and rolling in some places and high level prairie in others. Its only village is Morgan. There are five school houses. The predominating nationality is German.

The original survey was made in 1858, work being begun on July 8, by James L. Nowlin, U. S. deputy surveyor, and finished July 13. He described the land as low and marshy in some places, and rolling or high level prairie in others. The soil was first rate all through with one or two exceptions. There are many marshes. He found an Indian trail in section 22. There was a small lake in parts of sections 32 and 33. The U. S. Territorial road extends northwest and southeast through the center of the township. He found the agency road between sections 3 and 4 in the northern part of the township. There was no timber, neither was there any stones or minerals worthy of note, and there were no springs.

Beginning with the organization of the county this township was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Morgan township was created by the county commissioners May 11, 1880, and

an election ordered held at the "Railroad Station House" on May 26, 1880. The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says: "Owing to insufficiency of notice, this meeting was not held. The county commissioners being notified of the fact, appointed the following officers: Thomas Butcher, chairman, L. C. Ketcham and William McGinnis, supervisors; James Butcher, clerk; C. Christianson, treasurer; Peter Madsen and Knud Peterson constables. The first settlement was made by the tenants on the farms of the large land-owners, who own over two-thirds of the town. They began to open up these farms about eight years ago, and built a number of houses for their tenants. Settlement by men on their own land began a couple of years later. The village of Morgan was laid out in August, 1878, and contains one general store, one blacksmith shop, one lumber yard, one elevator and one hotel. The postoffice was established the same year, and the present incumbent, George Knudsen, appointed postmaster."

According to the transcript of the minutes made by F. W. Zaske, the town clerk, the first town meeting was held at Morgan Station on March 8, 1881. Ten votes were cast, and officers were elected as follows: Supervisors, C. R. Kundall (chairman), William McGinnis and G. M. Kurd; clerk, James Butcher; treasurer, George Knudsen; justices, F. S. Hollan and C. Christianson; constable, W. Behnkic.

### GALES TOWNSHIP.

Gales township is located in the southwest part of Redwood county, bordering the west side, and embraces Congressional township 110-39. It is bounded on the north by Westline, on the east by Johnsonville, on the south by Springdale, and on the west by Lyon county. The Cottonwood river flows in a southeasterly direction through the central part of it, and two small creeks flow in a northeasterly direction through the east part. The surface is a high rolling prairie. There are no railroads nor villages in Gales township. The trading centers are Tracy in Lyon county, Walnut Grove, Milroy and Redwood Falls in Redwood county. There are four school houses. The predominating nationality is American.

The original survey of this township was begun July 10, 1867, and finished July 15, 1867, by Richard H. L. Jewett and George G. Howe, U. S. deputy surveyors. The surface was described as high, rolling prairie, and the soil was not all first class, but quite light and sandy in some places. The banks of the Big Cottonwood had an occasional clump of willow and box elder trees. A small lake was found in sections 5, 8 and 9.

Beginning with September 4, 1866, Gales was included in Yellow Medicine township, and after Yellow Medicine county was

organized March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Gales was created by the commissioners June 19, 1876.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1884 says: "This town was named for the early settlers, A. L. and S. S. Gale, who came in May, 1872; at about the same time C. H. and C. W. Piper located. A. J. and C. E. Porter came during the same summer. July 18, 1876, the first town meeting was held at the house of A. J. Porter; officers elected: A. J. Porter, chairman; C. J. Nelson and J. J. Kelsey, supervisors; C. E. Porter, clerk; S. S. Gale, assessor; C. J. Nelson, treasurer; A. L. Gale and A. P. Langnest, justices; Hans Peterson, constable. The first school was taught by Ada Thrall in the summer of 1879, using O. W. Ellis' granary. There are now three frame school houses in the town."

A. M. Grunden, the present town clerk, has devoted considerable time to research concerning the early days of Gales township, and has written for this history the following article.

The first settler in township 110, range 39, was a Swedish family, consisting of A. P. Lanquest, his wife and baby daughter. They came about 1871 and settled on the northeast quarter of section 24. Next came S. S. Gale and wife; A. L. Gale, a single man; A. J. Porter and wife, and Charles F. Porter and wife. These families arrived in 1872. The Porters settled on the south half of section 8, and the Gales on the east half of section 10.

The same year (1872) a number of other settlers came, among whom should be mentioned Jacob Johnson and wife; Ch. Gulick Johnson (or Jacobson), a single man; Lars Peterson and wife and child; his father, Peder Pederson, a widower; and Hans Pederson, a single man. Jacob Johnson settled on the southwest quarter of section 32; Christian Gulick Johnson (or Jacobson) on the southeast quarter of section 30; Hans Pederson on the northwest quarter of section 32; Pars and Peder Pederson on the northeast quarter of section 32.

In 1874 A. M. Grunden settled on the west half of the southwest quarter, and the north half of the southwest quarter of section 14.

Taxes were low. Property was assessed by O. C. Martin of Redwood Falls in 1876. But there was not much to assess, Messrs. Grasshoppers did the harvesting in 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876 and 1877, and Mr. Prairie Fire did the threshing.

The first town meeting in Gales township was held at the home of A. James Porter, in the southeast quarter of section 8, on July 18, 1876. The meeting was called to order by C. F. Porter, who was elected clerk. A. L. Gale was made moderator, and S. S. Gale and C. J. Nelson, judges. The judges and the clerk swore each other into service. The next town meeting was ordered held at the home of C. J. Nelson, north half of section 28.

The officers elected were: Supervisors, A. James Porter (chairman), C. J. Nelson and J. J. Kelsey; clerk, C. E. Porter; treasurer, C. J. Nelson; assessor, S. S. Gale; justices, A. L. Gale and A. P. Languest; constable, Hans Pederson. Nine votes were cast.

A special meeting to consider the issuing of railroad bonds was called Aug. 8, 1876. The meeting was called to order by A. L. Gale, acting clerk. S. S. Gale was moderator, and explained the object of the meeting. The question was then put, "Shall the County of Redwood issue bonds to the amount of \$50,000 to aid in the construction of a railroad between Sleepy Eye in Brown county and Redwood Falls in Redwood county." Eleven votes were cast, every one being against the proposition.

In 1915 the number of voters had increased to a considerable degree. At a special meeting held June 7, 1915, the question was put: "Shall the sale of intoxicating liquors be prohibited in Redwood county?" Of the seventy-nine votes cast, fifty-two were for prohibiting the sale, and twenty-seven for continuing the sale. A. M. Grunden and S. E. Weber were clerks of the election, while S. P. Hicks, A. P. West and J. J. Johnson were the judges. At the general town meeting held March 14, 1916, there were sixty-nine votes cast. The list now contains the names of ninety-six who are qualified to vote at the election in November, 1916.

### JOHNSONVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Johnsonville township is located in the west-central part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 110-38. It is bounded on the north by Granite Rock, on the east by Waterbury, on the south by North Hero, and on the west by Gales. The Cottonwood river passes its southwest corner and Sleepy Eye creek rises here and flows eastward in the northern section of it. The surface is rolling, generally, but marshy in some places. The trading centers are Walnut Grove, Revere and Lamberton, in Redwood county, and Tracy in Lyon county. There are five school houses. The predominating nationality is German.

The survey of this township was begun July 20, 1859, and finished July 27, 1859, by Mahlon Black, U. S. deputy surveyor. He described the land as generally rolling and marshy. The soil was first class. There was very little timber found.

Beginning Sept. 4, 1866, Johnsonville was included in Yellow Medicine township and after Yellow Medicine county was organized March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Johnsonville was created July 16, 1878, at the home of Andrew Johnson. No meeting was held on that date.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says: "January 9, 1879, the county commissioners appointed officers to hold till the following election: August Larson, chairman, H.



**Burmeister and Gust. Johnson**, supervisors; **A. P. Johnson**, clerk; **Swan Johnson**, assessor; **C. Noah**, treasurer; **C. Herder and C. P. Johnson**, justices; **C. Eckland and L. Johnson**, constables. The first settlers were **Andrew Larson, Charles Lund, Peter Halt, Henry Anderson, Gust. and Lewis Johnson**, who came in 1872. The town was named for the Johnsons living in it."

### **WATERBURY TOWNSHIP.**

Waterbury township is located in the south-central part of Redwood county and embraces Congressional township 110-37. It is bounded on the north by Vail, on the east by Willow Lake, on the south by Lamberton, and on the west by Johnsonville. Sleepy Eye creek crosses it in the north-central part, flowing in an easterly and southeasterly direction. The surface is gently rolling, generally; but marshy along the stream. The Vesta-Sanborn branch of the Chicago and Northwestern crosses its northeast corner. The trading centers are Lamberton, Wanda and Wabasso. There are five school houses. The predominating nationality is German.

The original survey of this township was made during 1859 by **M. Black**, U. S. deputy surveyor. The work was started on July 13, 1859. The land was first class generally. A marshy stream entered in section 7, running through sections 8, 9, 10, 3, 2, 1 and 12 and thence into Sundown. Along this stream the land was very low and marshy. In other places the land was rolling, generally.

Beginning with March 2, 1868, the western half of Waterbury township was included in Yellow Medicine township, and after Yellow Medicine county was organized, March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township, together with the eastern part, which in the meantime had been considered a part of Redwood Falls township since the organization of Redwood county. Waterbury township was created by the commissioners March 20, 1878.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says: "The name was derived from a town of the same name in Vermont. The first settlers were **W. J. and Alfred Swoffer**, and **M. M. Madigan**; they came in the spring of 1872, and all located in section 3. **James P. and A. Christenson** came the same year. The first town meeting was held April 9, 1878, at **Alfred Swoffer's** house in section 28. Officers elected: **R. Clausen**, chairman, **Hans Hanson** and **John Belfany**, supervisors; **W. J. Swoffer**, clerk; **J. E. Kenyon**, assessor; **Lewis Basel**, treasurer; **Benjamin Butler**, justice, and **Henry Schmidt**, constable. The German Methodist denomination have an organization and hold services at the houses of the members, occasionally, having no regular pastor.

The first marriage in the town was that of Alfred Swoffer and W. M. Knight, December 1, 1879. The first birth was that of Charles W. Clausen, a son of R. and Mary Clausen, May 1, 1874. The first death was that of an infant daughter of John Balfany in September, 1878."

### WILLOW LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Willow Lake township is located in the south central part of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 110-36. It is bounded on the north by New Avon, on the east by Sundown, on the south by Charlestown, and on the west by Waterbury. Sleepy Eye creek crosses it on the north, flowing in an easterly direction. The surface is smooth prairie land. The Sanborn-Vesta branch of the Chicago and Northwestern crosses its southwest corner passing out through section 7. Its only village is Wanda. The trading centers are Wanda and Redwood Falls. There are five school houses. The predominating nationality is German.

The original survey was begun August 23, 1858, and finished August 27, 1858. The work was done by James L. Nowlin, U. S. deputy surveyor. The land in this township was nearly all smooth prairie land of a first quality. The surface was slightly rolling. He found a small lake in a part of sections 33 and 34.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says: "This town was first settled in 1871, by Christopher Whelan and his two sons, James McGuire and sons, and Martin Foy, seven persons; they made claims in the spring of 1872."

Beginning with the organization of the county, this township was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Willow Lake was created with its present boundaries Sept. 2, 1873, and an election ordered held Sept. 27, 1873.

M. M. Jenniges, the present town clerk, has transcribed for this work the minutes of the first meeting, and has also furnished some additional data as follows:

Pursuant to the order of the county board, a caucus was held at the home of H. B. Goodrich, Sept. 27, 1873. H. B. Goodrich was named as chairman. W. F. Smith was named as secretary and was also appointed as a delegate to attend a county convention at Redwood Falls, Oct. 1, 1873. The following nominations were then made: Supervisors, H. B. Goodrich (chairman), H. Evans, J. Dooner; treasurer, C. Whelan; justices, M. Foy and W. F. Smith; constables, James McGuire and William McGrew; members of the town central committee, W. F. Smith, H. Evans and B. C. Butler. W. F. Smith and H. B. Goodrich were named as judges of election. All the officers nominated were elected, each receiving the total eight votes cast.

The first birth recorded is that of Sumner Edson Butler, a

son born to Benjamin Edson Butler and Emma Antionett Butler, Oct. 3, 1873. The first birth of a girl recorded was that of Mary Altermatt, born April 30, 1874, to Peter Leo Altermatt and Anna Altermatt. The first death recorded was that of Anna Mary Gorres, died Jan. 7, 1875, age 58 years, 8 months and 5 days.

The first road was laid out on Dec. 31, 1875, by H. Evans, Gorres and C. Whelan, supervisors. There is now under construction in the township a state road from the east end of the township to the west line. A petition has been presented asking for a north and south state road also. The town uses nothing but the best steel culverts and steel bridges. In the spring of 1916, the town bought an elevator grader, which is propelled by gas power. The town has every reason to be proud of the wonderful work it has done in road building in a comparatively few years. All of the section lines, with the exception of one mile, are public roads. Nearly all the roads are drained. The good work that has been done has been accomplished in the face of drawbacks, for gravel is very difficult to obtain, there being no good gravel pit in the county.

### **SUNDOWN TOWNSHIP.**

Sundown township is located on the southern border of Redwood county just west of Brookville, and embraces Congressional township 110-35. It is bounded on the north by Three Lakes, on the east by Brookville, on the south by Brown county, and on the west by Willow Lake. Sleepy Eye creek crosses it diagonally, flowing in a southeasterly direction. There are no stations nor railroads. The trading centers are Sanborn and Springfield, in Brown county, and Morgan, in Redwood county. There are four school houses. The predominating nationality is Danish.

The original survey of this township was made in 1858, work being commenced by James L. Nowlin, U. S. deputy surveyor, on July 7, 1858. The land was mostly level prairie. The soil was first rate. There were no lakes and only a few evidences of white man to be seen. The Pacific Wagon Road entered the east of this township near the section line between sections 24 and 25 and passed through to the corner of the township.

Beginning with the organization of the county this township was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Sundown township was created by the county commissioners with its present boundaries Jan. 7, 1873.

The History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882 says: "Settlement began in 1871. That year Lars Thorstenson, C. B. Guile, M. L. and L. L. Bredvold, brothers; Jacob Lorenz, Ichabod Murphy, Charles and Andrew Anderson, father and son, and Calvin Stewart came. The first school was taught in a shanty on Phillip Matthew's farm in section 27, in 1873. The town now has

two good frame school houses. The Norwegian and Danish Lutherans united and organized about 1873, under the ministry of the Rev. L. O. Lund, with about six families. They now have a membership of about eighteen families but are, at present, without a pastor. In 1873 the first town meeting was held at the house of C. B. Guile in section 28. Ten votes were cast with the following result: Samuel Murphy, chairman; Frank Wolford and C. B. Guile, supervisors; W. H. Hawk, clerk; C. B. Guile, assessor; Lewis Sanford, treasurer; B. E. Brothers and Ira Sanford, justices; Z. Forman and Ed. Welch, constables."

### **BROOKVILLE TOWNSHIP.**

Brookville township is located in the east-south corner of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 110-34. It is bounded on the north by Morgan, on the east and south by Brown county, and on the west by Sundown. Sleepy Eye creek crosses its southwest corner. The Evan-Marshall branch of the Chicago and Northwestern crosses it in the northeastern part. The surface is gently rolling. Its station is Wayburne in section 4, consisting of one elevator and several houses. The trading centers are Evan and Springfield, in Brown county, and Morgan in Redwood county. There are four school houses. The predominating nationality is Danish.

The original survey was made in 1858, work being commenced July 14, 1858, by James L. Nowlin, U. S. deputy surveyor. He described the land as level, rolling and gently rolling. The soil was for the most part good, but second rate in some places. There were many marshes. He found an old Indian trail between sections 33 and 34 in the southern part of this township. There was a lake in parts of sections 4 and 9. There were several ponds besides this in the northern part of the township. The Pacific wagon road extended east and west through the township with a branch running north toward the Sioux Agency.

Beginning with the organization of the county, this township was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Brookville was created by the county commissioners Feb. 29, 1872. The requirements were not complied with, and the township was again created April 1, 1873.

The History of the Minnesota Valley, published in 1882, says: "Settlement began in 1869. Among the first to locate were, H. M. Jensen, Knud Hanson, Peter Jensen, and Ole Petersen, Danes who came in the spring and located in section 24. Of the Americans, J. B. Moore was the first to settle; he came in the summer of 1869, and located in section 4 on the north side of the lake that bears his name. His daughter, Melinda F., married G. E.

Conley, at her father's house, Nov. 1, 1873, the first marriage in the town.

"The first town meeting was held at the house of Peter Bodiger, in section 30, April 19, 1873. A. L. McDonald called the meeting to order. On motion of Y. Cornish, B. F. Cady was chosen moderator. Officers elected: B. F. Cady, chairman; Theodore Johnson and D. McMullen, supervisors; W. H. Brown, clerk; Peter Bodiger, assessor; James Sommer and Alonzo Lamphier, justices; H. M. Johnson and Abe Lane, constables. No treasurer was elected. John McMasters was elected poundmaster. Mr. Cady failed to qualify as chairman of the town board, and A. L. McDonald was appointed in his place.

"The Danish Adventists began holding services at the house of James Sommer in the fall of 1872. The services were conducted by the Rev. J. F. Hansen. The Danish Lutherans began holding services about ten years ago at private houses and still continue.

"The first school was taught at the house of D. J. Sheffield in section 32. There are now three schoolhouses in the town. The first birth was that of Hans J., a son of J. A. Hansen. He was born early in 1870. The first death was that of Thorine, a daughter of Ole Nielson, in the spring of 1874."

### SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP.

Springdale township is located in the southwest corner of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 109-39. It is bounded on the north by Gales township in Redwood county, on the east by North Hero township in Redwood county, on the south by Holly and Shetek in Murray county, and on the west by Monroe in Lyon county. Plum creek passes in an easterly direction in the central part, and from the south receives numerous creeks, thus cutting the southeastern part of the county into ravines and water courses. The northern part of the township is quite level. The southern part is more rolling. The Winona-Tracy division of the Chicago & Northwestern passes through the township, due east and west, in the south-central part. A part of the village of Walnut Grove is situated in the extreme eastern part of the township. The trading centers are Walnut Grove in Redwood county, and Tracy in Lyon county. The predominating nationality is Scandinavian and American.

There is a Norwegian Lutheran church in section 4, and a Swedish Lutheran church in section 1. The schoolhouse of district 22 is in section 14; of district 42 is in section 8; of district 98 is in section 30, and of district 24 is in section 27. The township hall is situated in section 22.

The original survey of this township was made by Richard

H. L. Jewett and George G. Howe, U. S. deputy surveyors. It was begun July 4, 1867, and completed July 9, 1867. They described the surface as rolling, well-watered prairie. There were but few marshes. This township had only a little timber, all of which was in the eastern part. The kinds of trees included oak, ash, willow and black walnut. The section of black walnut timber was occupied as claims by Joseph Steves and his son. The soil was of the first quality throughout with the exception of a few sections in the northwestern part which are light and sandy. A wagon road ran almost due east and west across the northern part of this township.

Beginning with Sept. 4, 1866, Springdale was included in Yellow Medicine township, and after Yellow Medicine county was created, March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Springdale was created by the county commissioners on Nov. 21, 1873, with its present boundaries, a petition having been presented by Shepard Moses and seventeen others. A meeting was called for Dec. 20, 1873, at the home of Leonard Moses. October 9, 1874, being notified by the state auditor that another town in the state had been named Summit, the commissioners changed the name to Springdale. The name, it is said, was given because of the many springs and beautiful valleys or dales, in the township.

The first town meeting was held as ordered Dec. 20, 1873, ten voters being in attendance. It was moved and seconded that Levi Montgomery act as clerk pro tem. Carried. The meeting was called to order by the clerk. Moved and seconded that M. F. Mills act as moderator of the meeting. Carried. The moderator stated that the object of the meeting was to elect officers. N. Rawlings and G. Murray were chosen to act as judges. The following officers were elected: Supervisors, J. M. Wardell (chairman), Joseph Steves, N. Rawlings; town clerk, Levi Montgomery; treasurer, M. F. Mills; justices, N. M. Crow and G. Murray; constables, S. T. Crow and N. Christopherson.

The present officers of Springdale township are: Supervisors, P. H. Johnson (chairman), August Farber and F. R. Blethen; clerk, E. E. Nichols; treasurer, S. G. Bergblom; assessor, F. L. Hayden. S. J. Bergblom has held the office of town treasurer continuously for twenty-one years. E. E. Nichols was first elected town clerk on March 13, 1888, held office for two years, was again elected March 10, 1896, held the office for six years, and was again elected March 13, 1906, since which time he has served continuously.

The History of the Minnesota Valley, published in 1882, says: "A man named Frink, built a house in 1860, at Walnut Grove, but left at the time of the Indian outbreak. In June, 1866, Joseph Steves located on section 36, and built a house over the cellar

Frink had abandoned. For several years he, with his son, was the only settler in the town; in 1871 the land was taken by numbers, and the town is now well settled. The first school was taught by Rhoda Hall, in 1872. A postoffice called Summit was established on the west line of the town about 1872, and was discontinued when Tracy was established in 1874."

E. E. Nichols, the present town clerk, says: "The winter of 1872-73 was terribly cold. The blizzard of Jan. 7, 8 and 9, 1873, was the worst ever known in this region from the days of the earliest settlers to the present time. The last year that the grasshoppers destroyed the crops in Springdale was in 1876. Many new settlers came to the township in 1878. The winter of 1880-81 was the most severe winter known to the settlers with the exception of that of 1872-73.

"When I came to Springdale on April 19, 1878, there was only one tree on the prairie, with the exception of the growth along Plum creek, and the natural grove a mile southwest of the present village of Walnut Grove. Now there are many beautiful groves, the farmers are prosperous, and the farms are equipped with fine buildings generally.

"The first homesteader in the township was Joseph Steves, who settled in section 36, in 1866. Quite a few homesteaders came in 1872 and 1873. Among them may be mentioned: American—S. T. Crow, A. D. Leonard, William Hodgkinson, Franklin Ensign, Joseph Wormworth, J. M. Wardell, M. F. Mills, Levi Montgomery, Wells, Way, Shepard, Charles, Leonard H., Hiram and Webster W. Moses; L. V. Kellogg, Amassa A. Tower, Randall Whitney, T. A. Fassett, Elias Bedal and Charles L. Webber. Scandinavian—Jan Pederson, Halvor Syverson, Andrew Swenson, John Norman, Peter Johnson, John Lindgren, Andrew Anderson, Ole Anderson, Andrew Thompson, Peter Westman and Swan Peterson. Irish—A. D. Clark."

### NORTH HERO TOWNSHIP.

North Hero township is located in the southwest part of Redwood county, being on the southern border, and embraces Congressional township 109-38. It is bounded on the north by Johnsonville, on the east by Lamberton, on the south by Cottonwood county, and on the west by Springdale. The surface is level or gently rolling. The Winona-Tracy division of the Chicago and North Western crosses it, passing due east and west in the south-central part of it. The Cottonwood river passes through the northwest part, in a northeasterly direction. It receives Plum creek from the south. Revere and a part of Walnut Grove are located in it. The trading centers are Walnut Grove, Revere, and Lamberton in Redwood county, and Tracy in Lyon county.



There are four schoolhouses. The predominating nationality is German and Scandinavian.

The original survey of this township was begun Aug. 5, 1859, and finished Aug. 12, 1859, by Mahlon Black, U. S. deputy surveyor. He described the land as level or gently rolling and dry, and the soil as first class. Colonel Nobles wagon road to the south pass of the Rocky mountains, entered this township in section 12, and passed westward across the northern part.

Beginning with Sept. 4, 1866, North Hero was included in Yellow Medicine township, and after Yellow Medicine county was organized, March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. North Hero (Barton) was created with its present boundaries Sept. 2, 1873, and an election was ordered for Sept. 27, 1873.

The History of the Minnesota Valley, published in 1882, says: "The town was named from a town in Vermont; it was for several years called Barton. The first settler was Eleck C. Nelson, who came in 1870. Other early settlers were, William Carter, Lafayette Beedal, Alfred Smith, and Thomas Allen. The first town meeting was held Sept. 27, 1873, and elected G. G. Thompson, chairman; Edward Coburn and James Peterson, supervisors; Lafayette Beedal, clerk; Gustave Sunwall, treasurer; John Wiggins and Edward Ballard, justices; Alfred Smith and William Carter, constables. The Congregational society began holding services in 1874 at James Kennedy's, and the following winter erected a frame church. H. C. Simmons is now pastor, and the society now numbers fifty members. The Methodists organized in 1876, and in 1881 built a church at the village; they organized with twelve members, and now have forty-two. Rev. J. N. Powell is pastor. The Swedish Lutherans also have an organization. The first school was taught in the winter of 1873-4 by Lafayette Beedal, at his house, with fifteen scholars. There are at present three frame schoolhouses in the town."

Of the origin of the name of North Hero, D. S. Cantine says: "The township of North Hero was named by Byron Knight, after his old home, the island of North Hero, in Lake Champlain, Vermont. This island was named in honor of Ethan Allen, of Revolutionary fame."

### LAMBERTON TOWNSHIP.

Lamberton township is located on the south border of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 109-37. It is bounded on the north by Waterbury, on the east by Charles-town, on the south by Cottonwood county, and on the west by North Hero. The Cottonwood river crosses it near the north-central part, flowing in a southeasterly direction. Two small

creeks flow northward into the Cottonwood. The Winona-Tracy division of the Chicago and Northwestern passes westward through the center of this township. The surface is rolling. The only village is Lamberton. There are three school houses. The predominating nationality is German and American.

The original survey of this township was made during 1859, by M. Black, U. S. deputy surveyor, work having been begun on July 28, 1859. The land was generally first class and rolling. Colonel Noble's wagon road entered this township in section 12. It ran west, southwest, northwest and then nearly straight west. There were a few small trees and also some marshes along the creeks and streams.

Beginning with March 2, 1868, the west part of this township was included in Yellow Medicine township, and after Yellow Medicine county was organized March 6, 1871, was considered a part of Redwood Falls township, together with the eastern part, which in the meantime has been considered a part of Redwood Falls township since the organization of Redwood county. When Charlestown was created May 3, 1872, it included the present township of Lamberton. Lamberton township was created by the county commissioners, May 3, 1872.

The History of the Minnesota Valley, published in 1882, says: "The first settler was J. F. Bean, who came in July, 1864, and located a claim in section 25. He brought his family out in December, 1866, and lived in the town but a few years, when he sold out and went away. The next settler was M. B. Abbett, who came in the fall of 1869 and located in section 24, where he lived until the past fall, when having been elected sheriff of the county, he moved into Redwood Falls.

"In October, 1872, Praxel & Schandera erected a small building in section 20 and on the south side of the railroad and near what is known as Cottonwood Crossing. They put in a stock of goods and had quite a trade which they conducted until 1874, when they moved to the present site of Lamberton. Charlestown postoffice was established in 1873, and located at their store, with A. A. Praxel as postmaster. He resigned when they moved their store, and G. L. Wagner was appointed. He held the office about two years when it was discontinued."

"The first election was held April 1, 1874, at W. W. Kelly's warehouse. The judges of election were, J. H. Abbett, H. Small, George Porter. The clerks were William Johnson and W. W. Kelly. The following officers were elected: J. H. Abbett, chairman; Hiram Small and John Pierce, supervisors; W. E. Golding, clerk; William Johnson, assessor; M. B. Abbett, treasurer; J. E. Libby and P. L. Pierce, justices, and Albert Small, constable.

"The first school was opened in the summer of 1875 by Miss Louise Kelly, with about sixteen scholars, at J. H. Abbett's house,

in section 22. The following fall a building was erected and occupied the next winter. The town now has three school buildings, all frame.

"The Congregational society began holding services in 1875, in Mr. Kelly's warehouse. In 1877 an organization was effected under the ministry of the Rev. Leonard Moses. The present pastor is Rev. George Holden, and services are conducted weekly. The Catholics held services as early as 1876, but no organization has been effected, and services are conducted irregularly. The Methodists began holding services in the spring of 1879; the minister was Rev. John Gimson. An organization was effected the following summer with about six members. The present pastor is the Rev. J. H. Harrington, of Sleepy Eye, who conducts services once in four weeks. A frame church was partially built during the summer of 1880."

### CHARLESTOWN TOWNSHIP.

Charlestown township is located in the southeast corner of Redwood county, and embraces Congressional township 109-36. It is bounded on the north by Willow Lake, on the east by Brown county, on the south by Cottonwood county, and on the west by Lamberton. The Cottonwood river flows eastwardly through its southern part. The surface is rolling prairie. The Sanborn-Vesta branch of the Chicago and North Western crosses it from north to south in a northwesterly direction and the Winona-Tracy division of the Chicago and North Western passes from the southeast corner to the west-central corner. The village of Sanborn is located near the southeast corner. The trading centers are Lamberton and Sanborn in Redwood county, and Springfield in Brown county. There are four schoolhouses. The predominating nationality is German.

The original survey was begun Aug. 2, 1858, and finished Aug. 5, 1858, by James L. Nowlin, U. S. deputy surveyor. The quality of this land was very good with the exception of some bluffs along the creeks, some low bottom lands and a few marshes. It was all fit for cultivation. The general appearance of the land was rolling prairie. The Cottonwood and small streams that were found, skirted by timber, gave the land additional advantage and a fine appearance. No surface stones, nor springs, nor appearance of minerals of any kind were found. The water in the creeks was pure and fit for use. Colonel Noble's wagon road from Fort Ridgley to the South Pass of the Rocky mountains, passed east and west across the northern part of this township. There were also two other wagon roads, being in the central part of this township.

Beginning with the organization of the county, this township

was considered a part of Redwood Falls township. Charlestown was created May 3, 1872, and an election ordered to be held at the home of A. Kenton, May 20, 1872. The township then included the present townships of Charlestown and Lamberton. Lamberton was set off and created March 12, 1874, leaving Charlestown with its present boundaries. The creation of Charlestown with its present boundaries was reaffirmed Jan. 7, 1880.

The History of the Minnesota Valley, published in 1884, says: "It was named for Charles Porter, the first settler; he arrived in 1864 and took a claim on section 31. His daughter, Lillie, born Nov. 14, 1868, was the first birth. In November, 1868, George L. and John Wagner, William Goehring and Gotlieb Jacobs settled in the town.

"Rev. August Kenter, a German Lutheran, held the first religious services in the spring of 1869. The society was formed the next summer with eight members, and in 1878 a church was built on section 26, costing \$400, and there are thirty members. The Allbright Brethren of Evangelical Methodists held services in 1870, and have a church in connection with members in Cottonwood county.

A schoolhouse was built on section 30 in the fall of 1873, and school taught by Christina Van Schaack; the town has four school buildings.

The first marriage was that of John Bauer and Hattie Werner in 1873. An infant son of George Wagner died in 1869, the first death.

"The first town meeting was held May 25, 1872. Officers elected: J. G. Wagner, chairman; John Mondy and Henry Neeb, supervisors; G. L. Wagner, clerk; George Huhnergath, assessor; John Yaeger, treasurer; William Goehring and Charles Porter, justices; Melville Abbett and William Heidlauff, constables."

---

Yellow Medicine township was the first township created in Redwood county. It was created Sept. 4, 1866, and embraced everything in the county west of the range line between ranges 37 and 38. It thus included the townships of Underwood, Vesta, Westline, Granite Rock, Gales, Johnsonville, Springdale and North Hero in what is now Redwood county, and all the present counties of Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln and Lyon. The first election was to be held at the home of John Winter, who lived on the Yellow Medicine river. It was to be in charge of D. P. Lister, George S. Johnson and J. A. White. All this vast tract was constituted school district No. 3. March 2, 1868, all the west half of range 37, lying in this county, was added to Yellow Medicine township. This took in the west halves of

the present townships of Swedes Forest, Kintire, Sheridan, Vail, Waterbury and Lamberton.

From the very beginning it was generally understood that all area not otherwise organized was included in Redwood Falls township. Therefore, as soon as Yellow Medicine county was organized, March 6, 1871, all the area left in Redwood county that had previously been included in Yellow Medicine township was generally understood to be in Redwood Falls township until the various townships were created from its territory. In the meantime, however, Sheridan had been organized from Yellow Medicine township before Yellow Medicine county was cut off.

### Other Townships.

When Redwood county extended to the western boundary of the state, the creation of the townships in the present counties of Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, Lyon and Lincoln was under the control of the commissioners of Redwood county. Lac qui Parle township was refused organization Jan. 5, 1871. Cerro Gordo (all of township 118, ranges 42 and 43 south of the Minnesota) was created March 17, 1871, and an election ordered held at the home of William M. Mills, April 5, 1871. Camp Release township (all of township 117-40, 117-41 and 118-41 south of the Minnesota) was created March 17, 1871, and an election ordered held at the home of Peter Peterson. Sannes township (114-40) was created May 18, 1871, and an election ordered held at the home of Ingebret Johnson, June 6, 1871. Ree township (114-41) was created May 18, 1871, and the first meeting ordered held at the home of Ole O. Lande, June 6, 1871. Stony Run township (116-40) was created Sept. 6, 1871. Baxter township (117-42) was created Sept. 12, 1871. Sept. 9, 1869, township 109, ranges 34 and 35 were notified that they were included in Redwood county by the revised statutes of the state.

**Authorities.** History of the Minnesota Valley, Foote & Warner, North Star Publishing Co., Minneapolis, 1882. (Second edition in 1884).

Notes of the Original Government Survey, in the custody of the register of deeds of Redwood county.

Records of the County Commissioners in the custody of the auditor of Redwood county.

Federal and State Census Reports, 1870-1910.

Atlas and Farm Directory of Redwood County, Webb Publishing Co., St. Paul, 1914.

Personal Observations of Mrs. Adella G. Pratt, superintendent of schools of Redwood county.

Other information has been furnished as follows: Honner, H. R. Simondet; New Avon, George I. Davis and J. S. Towle;

Three Lakes, H. N. Redig; Morgan, F. W. Zaske; Gales, A. M. Grunden; Wanda, M. M. Jenniges; Brookville, S. J. Hansen; Springdale, E. E. Nichols; North Hero, M. J. Wiggins; Swedes Forest and Kintire, A. O. Gimmestad.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### REDWOOD COUNTY CHURCHES.

The churches of Redwood county have exercised a strong influence upon the life of Redwood county, even outside of the religious purpose for which they were primarily organized and for which they are sustained.

The churches have naturally followed the population, but the population has also followed the churches, and the churches of the various nationalities and denominations have been a strong factor in bringing to the locality of the church, people of like inclinations, nationality and beliefs.

The earliest settlers of Redwood Falls being Americans, the first churches were those of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Bishop Henry B. Whipple's interest in the Minnesota river country caused an Episcopal church to be established in Redwood Falls not many years after the Methodists and Presbyterians had organized. Previous to the massacre there had been an Episcopal mission at the agency.

As the settlers began to spread out, other Presbyterian and Methodist churches were organized. Delhi, in particular, became the center of a sturdy Scotch Presbyterian settlement. Some of these people had come here from Scotland, and some from Canada, while others, both from Canada and Scotland, had lived in Wabasha county, this state, before coming here. A few had lived in other states. All were of staunch Presbyterian faith, and the upbuilding of the churches among their first thoughts.

Before the massacre, there had been a flourishing settlement of Germans in Renville county, across the river from Redwood county, and an Evangelical association church had been organized. After the massacre, Flora township, in Renville county, became the center of a German colony, the people of which were likewise of the Evangelical association faith. Some of these people settled on this side of the river in Honner township, and services of the Evangelical association were early held in Honner township for their benefit.

Among the earliest settlers in the county were the Norwegians in Swedes Forest. As the settlement began to grow there, and

other Norwegians came in, services were held as a part of the work which was being carried on among the solid Scandinavian settlements of western Renville county, not far away. Religiously and socially the people of Swedes Forest were closely connected with the people of Renville county for many years, an association which even to the present day is not entirely severed.

As the Scandinavians, mostly Danish, came up the Cottonwood, and settled in Sundown and Brookville townships, a Norwegian and Danish Lutheran was organized in Sundown township, and a Danish Advent and a Danish Lutheran church in Brookville.

A few Americans settled in the southern part of the county and in addition to Methodist churches at Walnut Grove and Lamberton, Congregational churches were organized in each of these places.

The Swedish people formed the nucleus of a settlement in the southwestern part of the county, and a Swedish Lutheran church was organized in North Hero township.

The majority of the pioneers of Brown county were Germans. This brought many of their fellow countrymen to this part of the country, and the settlement which was in time to dominate the southern, central and western parts of Redwood county, was started in the townships of Charlestown, Lamberton, Willow Lake and Waterbury. For these people, German Methodist services were held at Waterbury, and German Lutheran and German Evangelical services in Charlestown.

Among these Germans were also many Catholics. Catholics had also begun to settle in Redwood Falls. A few Irish also drifted into New Avon and Three Lakes. These people were served by the Rev. Alex. Berghold, a devout and scholarly priest from New Ulm. He held mass at Redwood Falls and Lamberton, in the seventies, and also visited isolated families of his faith in various parts of the country, administering to them the consolations of his religion.

When the central part of the county began to be built up, many years later, the people were for the most part of the Catholic and Lutheran faith, of German and Bohemian nationality.

The present denominations of the county are the Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Evangelical Association, Advent, Episcopal, Christian and Brethren.

In 1914 the Rev. L. F. Badger, then pastor of the Presbyterian church, at Redwood Falls, took a canvass of religious life and work in Redwood county. The following statistics are from the report of that canvass:

"English-speaking (exclusively) churches (7 denominations), 22; German-speaking churches (6 denominations), 21; Scandinavian churches (5 denominations), 14; Roman Catholic churches,



12; total number of churches, 69. Communicants in: English-speaking churches, 1,588; German-speaking churches, 2,384; Scandinavian-speaking churches, 1,474; Roman Catholic churches, 2,299; total, 7,745. Total population of county over 14 years of age, according to U. S. census, 10,975. Total over 14 years of age, not in any church, 3,282.

"Children under 16 years of age enrolled in Sunday school or 'instruction classes': English-speaking churches, 831; German-speaking churches, 610; Scandinavian-speaking churches, 524; Roman Catholic churches, 581; Union Sunday schools, 90; total under 16, getting religious instruction, 2,636. Total population 6 years to 17 years, according to U. S. census, 5,646. Without regular religious instruction, 3,010.

"Number of farms in Redwood county worked by renters, according to U. S. census, 778; number of renters' families connected with some church by at least one member, 203; renters' families with no church members, 575; farms operated by the owners, 1,519; farm owner families represented in the churches by members, 1,248; farmers owning farm where no member of the family is member of any church, 273.

"There are twelve English-speaking ministers and one Indian in Redwood county. There are two vacant churches, the Methodist churches at Milroy and at Nettywynnut with a membership of three and four respectively. There are two churches which do not have regular pastors, the Advent church near Wayburn and the Brethren at Vesta. Six churches have each the full time of a pastor.

"There are 22 English-speaking churches, including one Indian, as follows: Presbyterian, 8; Methodist, 6; Congregational, 3; Episcopal, 2; Brethren, 1; Advent, 1, and Christian 1.

"The Methodist churches have 569 members; outside the city of Redwood Falls, 192 members. The Presbyterian churches have 550 members; outside of the city, 402 members. Other denominations have a membership of 476; outside the city of Redwood Falls, 216. Total membership of English-speaking churches in county, 1,590. Net increase in church membership during the last five years, 99. The largest church in county, Redwood Falls, Methodist, 427 members. The smallest church in county, Sanborn Methodist, members 0. Three churches have been organized during last five years, all Presbyterian; five have increased their membership, six have lost, and seven have neither lost nor gained.

"Five churches have no organization besides the Sunday school. Seven churches have ladies' aid only; two have brotherhoods, Redwood Methodist and Paxton (Indian) Episcopal. Four churches have four other organizations: the Methodist and Presbyterian of Redwood Falls, Presbyterian of Delhi, and Methodist of Lamberton.

"Three churches have no building, Underwood and Ashford Presbyterian and Vesta Brethren. \$77,000 are invested in buildings for English-speaking congregations. Half of this in Redwood Falls, one-fourth in Redwood Falls Methodist church. The total seating capacity of all these and two school houses used by church organizations is 4,460. The average attendance, morning service, if there are more than one, is 1,440. Only one church, Delhi Presbyterian, has an average attendance equalling its seating capacity. Only two, Redwood Falls Methodist and Paxton Indian, have an average attendance equal to one-half the seating capacity.

"Total paid for salaries \$12,695, an increase in five years of \$1,675. All Presbyterian churches have increased salaries; one Methodist, one Episcopal, one Christian. Outside of Redwood Falls the largest salary paid (Presbyterian) \$1,000; smallest \$950. Methodist: high salary \$750; lowest \$600, outside of Redwood Falls. Only one minister, English-speaking, outside of Redwood Falls, besides Methodist and Presbyterian, receives a salary of \$800.

"Statistics of foreign-speaking churches in Redwood county show the following: Number of churches, 35; German-speaking, 21; Scandinavian, 14.

"Of German-speaking the churches are: 2 German Methodists; 5 Evangelical Association; 6 Ohio Synod Lutheran; 5 Minnesota Synod Lutheran; 2 Missouri Synod Lutheran; 1 Evangelical Lutheran.

"Of Scandinavian churches: 7 Norwegian Lutheran Synod; 3 Norwegian Lutheran Free; 2 Swedish Lutheran; 2 Danish Lutheran United.

"There are twelve of these churches in the open country, six German-speaking and six Scandinavian-speaking.

"Four German churches have each the full time of a pastor. No one Scandinavian church has the full time of a pastor. Seven German pastors supply two churches; five supply three or more. Two Scandinavian pastors supply two churches; six supply three or more. Only one German church has more than one service on Sunday. No Scandinavian church has more than one service on Sunday. Eight German churches do not have services every Sunday. Only two Scandinavian churches have services every Sunday.

"The largest church of any denomination or language in the county is the German Lutheran church of Sanborn with 485 communicants—more communicants than the entire population of the village in which it is located. The smallest foreign-speaking church is the Evangelical Lutheran of Sanborn, with a membership of fifteen.

"There are two large Scandinavian churches, the Springdale Swedish with a membership of 268 communicants, and Swedes

Forest Norwegian church with a membership of 180 communicants.

"One German church has lost in membership during the past five years. No Scandinavian church has lost in membership. Figures as to growth could not be obtained from ten churches. One new church has recently been organized, the Norwegian of Lucan.

"Seven German churches have no organization within the church. Only one German church, at Sanborn, has three organizations.

"All but two of the Scandinavian churches have local organizations. Four of them have at least three such organizations.

"Three churches have no buildings: at Walnut Grove, Lucan and Belview, all Scandinavian. The value of the church buildings is estimated at \$58,000 for the German, and \$24,000 for the Scandinavian churches. In only three churches does the average attendance equal the seating capacity of the building: Willow Lake, Milroy and Vesta, all German. Eight churches have an average attendance equalling half the seating capacity. In all the other churches the average attendance falls below half of the seating capacity of the church.

"The following are some of the facts brought out by the house-to-house canvass of Redwood county. Much of the canvass was very thoroughly and conscientiously done. Some of it—a very few cases—was evidently done in a very perfunctory manner. Out of the 113 school districts in the county the canvass has been completed in eighty-three. One township, Lamberton, has done nothing in any of its districts, the only whole township to fail. Of the sixteen villages and the city, eight have failed to make any returns, viz., Belview, North Redwood, Redwood Falls, Wabasso, Sanborn, Lamberton, Revere, Walnut Grove. It has been much easier to get the canvass done in the country than in the villages. Just half of the town districts having been canvassed but 75 out of 97 of the rural districts have made their returns.

"Some of the totals are as follows: Number of families canvassed, 1,617; number of these families which report no church members in the family, 248; number of Lutheran families, 789; number of Catholic families, 339; number of families not Lutheran or Catholic, 594; number of families where no member of the family attend church, 301; number of persons over fourteen years in the families canvassed who do not attend church, 633; number of children between five and sixteen years who are not reported as attending Sunday school, 1,501; number of families which are reported as taking a religious paper, 381.

"In the three of the four districts in Swedes Forest township which reported, every family is Lutheran; every family has church members; there are no adults who do not attend church.

"There seems to be little or no overchuraching in the county, only three towns having more than one English-speaking church. There are two abandoned churches in the county. One organized as a Union affair by some people believing in holiness, the church going down as this class of people moved away. The other the result of a Methodist church organizing in a small town where there was already a Presbyterian church. There is one unused Catholic church because a town sprang up near by and in the town the congregation put up a \$20,000 new church. There is no Catholic church in the open country."

Since the above survey was taken, the Catholics have erected a magnificent church at Redwood Falls, and a splendid structure has been put up by the Swedish Augustana Synod church at Belview. The Methodist Episcopal church at Wabasso has been moved to New Avon township, and a Methodist congregation organized under the pastorate of the pastor at Redwood Falls. The Union church in New Avon township has been reopened as a Christian church under the pastorate of the pastor of the Christian church at Redwood Falls. Bethany Congregation of the Missouri Synod, German Lutheran church, has been established at Wabasso, meetings being held in the village hall.

An effort has been made to secure a history of each individual congregation in the county. Repeated letters have been addressed to pastors and others on the subject. In the following material a complete list of the churches of the county is given. Where no detailed account of the church appears, the reason is the failure of the pastors or members to respond to inquiries. The histories here appended are of value for several reasons. They are fairly typical of all the churches, and they will be in this volume preserved long after many of the church records have been destroyed.

### **German Lutheran, Ohio Synod.**

In Redwood county there are six German Lutheran churches of the Ohio Synod, located in Waterbury, Johnsonville, Morgan, Lamberton, Wanda and Milroy.

**Evangelical Lutheran Christus-Gemeinde (Christ's Congregation) of Wanda, Minn.** This church belongs to the denomination known as "Evangelical Lutheran church of the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States." The first meetings, as well as the divine services of this congregation were held in "Eichten's Hall," Wanda, where at the second meeting, Jan. 13, 1902, it was organized under the presidency of Rev. Geo. Appel, of Springfield, Minn. In October, the same year, the members—only eleven in number—succeeded in erecting a church edifice, with a seating capacity of 100, which soon after was dedi-

cated to the service of the Triune God and His Kingdom. Rev. Geo. Appel preached the sermon on this occasion. In the services of the church, including the sermons, the German language is used exclusively, except on certain special occasions, when English is made use of. At present the congregation consists of twenty-two joint members, or "families," and families not belonging to the church but attending the services; of the latter some six or seven from some of which the congregation receives financial support. In spite of the considerable expenditures for other purposes, which have been necessary from the beginning, the congregation in 1910 managed to provide a nice little parsonage, located in town, for their minister. The present pastor, Rev. Th. Tychsen, who came here three years ago, also has charge of two other congregations about the same size as this—one at Comfrey, Minn., and the other in Stately township, ten miles southeast of Sanborn, Minn.

The Wanda congregation has no parochial day school, but the children are expected to attend the Sunday school (where they have to recite their catechism text or Bible history, and are taught the reading and spelling of the German language) until they reach the age of from 13 to 15 years. At that age the congregation provides that every child, for a period of six months, shall be given by the pastor an explanation of the catechism, instructed in the Holy Scriptures, and taught the confession of the Lutheran church; in addition to which the catechumens take up a general course in reading, writing and language. This short term of "confirmation-teaching" is held every second year, either in the church, public schoolroom, or in some other suitable building.

It should be of interest to learn that the pioneer members of the church were Paul Doepke, August Tonack, Herman Bloedow, William Bloedow, Mrs. Aug. Bloedow, John Hoffman, Carl Goedde, Carl Kagel, Emil Tonack, Albert Spalding, Louis Sandberg and Henry Schrader. The latter two have moved away from here; otherwise all of the pioneers are still living, except William Bloedow, who was called away by death in the spring of 1913. As incidental to the history of the church it may be mentioned that in the year 1908 the building was struck by lightning, and the repairs, together with a lightning-rod system put on, cost the congregation the sum of \$900. Three years ago the church was renovated inside, and a new organ and carpets bought, the total cost of which amounted to \$350. The present value of the property is \$2,000. Since its organization the following ministers have served the congregation: Rev. Carl Ganchow, installed on a Sunday in July, 1902, accepted a call to Shakopee, Minn., in October, 1903. Rev. Rud. Kohlrusch, who took charge of the congregation in January, 1904, stayed until March, 1906. Rev. H. Bruss served from July, 1906, until November, 1907.

By his removal the congregation was left without a pastor for almost two years, when Rev. A. Nischwitz accepted a call to the pastorate and was installed in July, 1909. After four years he accepted a call to Nebraska, in June, 1913. Since July 1, 1913, the present pastor, Rev. Th. Tychsen, has had charge of the congregation. It is worthy of note that whenever the church has been without a pastor, ministers from neighboring towns have made the best provision for the people that was possible under the circumstances.

The church book contains the following record of some "first" events connected with its history: First baptisms—George Bloedow, Walter Hoffman and Ida Kagel. Confirmations—Bertha Tonack, Elisa Schmechel and Sahra Hoffman. Marriage—F. C. Becker and Anna Hesse. The first death, a child of Rev. and Mrs. A. Nischwitz, in 1911.

Very often in the history of this church its future prospects looked dark, but its few members kept up their courage and continued to hope and work, and it can now be said that the congregation really is growing and developing spiritually and materially, inwardly and outwardly, in a satisfactory way.

**Evangelical Zion's Congregation of Lamberton, Minn.** This church, which is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio and other states, originated in the latter part of the year 1884, when the first services of the denomination were held in District Schoolhouse No. 16, Charlestown, about six miles south-east of Lamberton. The Rev. D. Lang, a Lutheran minister of Springfield, Minn., presided as pastor. The congregation was organized in Charlestown, December 16, 1884, the first officers being August Koenig, August Rogotzke, Franz Wichmann, George L. Wagner and Wilhelm Schuch. The first and only church edifice was erected in the village of Lamberton in the winter of 1885-6 and has been since renovated. In the summer of 1886 the parsonage was erected near the church. The bellfry and sanctuary of the church were built in the summer of 1900. In addition to the officers above mentioned, some of the prominent members of the congregation were and are the following: Heinrich Steffen, Christian Kastner, Johann Kastner, Johann Stechmann, Johann Joeckel, August Holznagel, Wilhelm Holznagel, Johann Wagner, Wilhelm Kasten, August Stern, Edward Arnsdorf, Daniel Radatz, Ludwig Joeckel, August Groechel, Wilhelm Vollmer, Carl Spaulding, Guenther Becker, Carl Bauch, August Kastner, Carl Beyer, Julius Grund, Asmus Bendixen, Franz Kaats, Otto Herder, Otto Vogler, Julius Pfarr, Wilhelm Degner, Heinrich Wahl, Johann Buetow and others. Among the first births recorded are those of Frederick Wilhelm, Ester Emma and George Andreas, children of Chr. and Katherine Kastner; Anna Stechmann, Karl August Johannes Koenig, Alma Auguste Emilie

Moede, Wilhelm Johann Seidler, Ella Berends, Wilhelm Johannes Schuch, Ida Matzke and Anna Pauline Joeckel. The first marriage recorded was that of Johann G. W. Wagner and Emilie H. F. Joeckel, who were united in holy wedlock April 29, 1886. The first death was that of Hermann Johannes, son of Wilhelm and Anna (Koenig) Schuch, who died June 6, 1889. Others who died soon after were Heinrich Steffen, Elma K. S. Wagner, Carl A. H. Schuch, Paul R. Timm, Emma A. Dommer, Bertha M. Groechel, Anna D. Kastner, Ida Schulz and Joh. Reppel. The Rev. D. Lang was the first pastor of the church, serving from 1884 to 1885. He was followed by Rev. J. G. Appel, 1885 to 1887; Rev. F. H. G. Voelker, 1887 to 1890; Rev. C. Althof, 1890 to 1891; Christian Langholz, 1891 to 1895, Rev. W. L. Keller, 1895 to 1904; Rev. Paul Cornils, 1904 to 1913; Rev. Ewald Michaelis, who assumed charge in 1914 and who is the present pastor, serving also two other congregations, both of which are in Cottonwood county. In the congregation there are today nineteen voting members, 110 communicants and 184 baptized members. The German language is nearly always used in sermons. Though there is no parochial day school in Lamberton, about three months of catechetical instruction previous to confirmation are given in a small school house near the church. The only society connected with the church is the "Frauenverein," or Ladies' Aid Society. The present value of the church building is \$2,000.

#### **German Lutheran, Minnesota Synod.**

The Lutheran churches of the Minnesota Synod are found in Vesta, Redwood Falls, Sheridan, Seaforth, Sanborn and Wabasso.

**Evangelical Lutheran St. John Church, of Vesta, Minn.** The first meeting of the original members of this congregation took place June 10, 1900, at the residence of Emil Kratzke, in Vesta, and in the fall of the same year a church building was erected, in which the congregation has since worshipped. The pioneer members of the church were Otto Maasch, Emil Kratzke, Carl Rehfeld, Rudolph Kletscher, Carl Dietz, G. Steinkraus, Carl Gladitsch, Julius Jordan, August Jordan, Dick Rust and John Gassler. In 1914 the church building was enlarged and the property is now valued at \$1,600. A school building was erected in the fall of 1909 and nine months of school are kept each year. The congregation was served by Rev. Ph. Martin from September 29, 1899 to 1906. He was followed by Rev. G. Adascheck, who was pastor from 1906 to 1907, since which time Rev. P. R. Gedicke has had charge of the church, being its present pastor. The congregation now numbers 225 members. The first baptism recorded on the church book was that of Dorothea Rust; the first marriage was that of Gustav Dallmann and Anna Jensen, and the first



death that of Dorothea Hohnstaedt. In 1908 the church joined the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Minnesota and helped to build the Dr. Martin Luther College of New Ulm, Minn.

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, at Redwood Falls, Minn.** Was founded in 1898. On January 2 of that year a small number of Lutherans living in or near Redwood Falls came together for divine worship in an old Adventist church, which they had rented. After the services they held a business meeting, in which they organized themselves as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church by adopting a constitution and electing a board of elders consisting of three men, namely: Louis Gaedy, August Heuer and Ferdinand Keil. Aside from these three the little congregation consisted of the following members: Friedrich Sauke, Christian Babzin, Gustav Massow, Anna Theiring and Robert Gruendemann. Occasionally services had been conducted here before that time by Rev. William Sheitel of Posen township, Rev. J. Bauer of Town Eden and Rev. William Fettingier of Morgan. In 1899 the number of members had increased to fifteen, and these took upon themselves the burden of erecting a church, which they joyfully dedicated to the service of the Lord on October 30, 1899. After its organization, the congregation at Redwood, which had at first been part of a parish which included St. John's church in Town Sheridan and Zion's church at Morton. The first minister of this united parish was Rev. H. Koch, who resided in Redwood Falls. In 1900 St. Paul's church at Seaforth was organized and this congregation was united with the one at Sheridan, both calling a new pastor to serve them. Since then, until 1916, the congregations at Redwood Falls and Morton also formed an independent parish, of which Rev. Koch remained pastor until 1901. During the last year of his pastorate he lived in Morton, where the congregation had built a new parsonage for him. Rev. P. Hinderer, who was called to the parish in 1901, also lived in Morton, from which place he served both congregations until he accepted a call to South Dakota in 1902.

For a year the parish was without a pastor. During this time the congregation at Redwood Falls was cared for by Rev. William Schoknecht of Morgan and Rev. A. Zich of Sleepy Eye. In the fall of 1903 Rev. H. Paustian was called by the parish and accepted. According to an agreement between the two congregations, it was decided that hereafter the pastor should reside in Redwood Falls. A parsonage was built for him in 1905. After having served the parish for six years, Rev. Paustian accepted a call to Wisconsin and in July, 1910, the present pastor, Rev. A. Schaller, came to take his place. During all these years the congregation at Redwood Falls had grown continually, and in the beginning of the year 1916 numbered about fifty-five members. In the same year the members came to the important agreement

with the congregation, that the parish should be separated, each congregation having its own pastor. On the 27th of August, Rev. H. Parisius, who had been called to Morton, was installed in that congregation, and since then St. John's church at Redwood has also been an independent congregation, retaining the services of its pastor, Rev. A. Schaller. The pastor also serves Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Morton, Renville county, Minn. The following items taken from the church records may be of interest to the reader. The first baptism recorded was that of Karl Jordan, son of Herman Jordan, born April 20, 1898. The first burial services in the church were held for F. Stroschein, December 2, 1899. The first members to be married in church were Ferdinand Panitzke and Louise Jordan, March 16, 1900. The first Holy Communion recorded was attended by thirty people. The first class of young people was confirmed in the church March 31, 1901. They were Alma Huehnerkoch, Alma Stage, Alwina Keil, Amalia Joern, Emma Hoepner, Maria Marquardt, Herman J. Raddatz, Franz Jordan, Herman Luessenhop and Emmanuel Buerger. The church has now fifty-two voting members, the number of souls being 260. Most of the sermons are preached in the German language, but once a month English services are held. The Ladies' Aid Society is an important factor in the work of the church, while another is the well selected library of 300 volumes. The parochial school is taught for six months each year by the minister to prepare the young for confirmation. The value of the church property is \$2,000; the parsonage, \$2,000, and the school, \$200. The average Sunday attendance is seventy-five persons.

**St. John's Lutheran Church of Sheridan Township.** The members who later on organized this church held their first meeting in Redwood Falls in 1870, the presiding pastor being the Rev. J. J. Hunziker of Lyon county. They were the first people of the Lutheran denomination who settled in Sheridan township. In 1892 they erected a church, 20 by 40 feet, with a seating capacity of 150 people, on five acres of ground which were donated by Friedrich Muetzel, the church costing \$1,800. The Rev. J. J. Hunziker was their minister until 1896 and they were served by Rev. H. Albrecht of Renville, Minn., for a year and a half. In 1897 Rev. H. Koch was called as their minister, and in the following year they joined the Minnesota Synod. The parsonage, which is located near the church, was built in 1899 at a cost of \$1,400. In the same year Rev. J. Mittelstaedt was called as their minister and served the congregation until 1904. He was followed by Rev. H. F. Eggert, who remained until 1910, after which Rev. John Piper of Echo, Minn., took charge of the congregation and was the minister until 1911, when the Rev. Julius X. Lenz was called to the pastorate from Meadow, S. D., and is still serving therein,

being also pastor of the Seaforth and Bethany congregations. The year after his arrival a parochial school house was built, in size 24 by 32 feet. At present the congregation consists of thirty-four members.

**The Seaforth Evangelical Church** was organized in the year 1900, among its first members being Theo. Zorn, Dan. Staeger, Theo. Staeger, Leopold Staeger, Ed. Schulz, William Schroeder, J. Schroeder, Carl Lueck, G. Wotschke, Herman Schulz, August Reddermann and others. The first minister was the Rev. H. Koch, of Redwood Falls, who served the congregation until 1901. He then accepted a call to Wisconsin and was followed by Rev. John Mittelstoedt, who was pastor until 1904, when the Rev. K. F. Eggert was called. In 1902 the congregation joined the Minnesota Synod. When Rev. K. F. Eggert accepted a call to Michigan in 1910, Rev. Paul Gedicke, of Vesta, took charge of the congregation until 1911, when the Rev. Julius X. Lenz, the present pastor, was called from South Dakota. The property of the congregation, which consists of 15 members, is valued at \$2,000.

**The Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Congregation** at Wabasso is a recent addition to the religious forces of the county, having been organized in 1915. At present services are held in the city hall, but a church building, 30 by 32 feet in size, in process of erection. The pastor is Rev. Julius X. Lenz, who serves also the church at Seaforth and St. John's Church of Sheridan township.

### **German Lutheran, Missouri Synod.**

The two churches of this denomination are located respectively in Willow Lake township and at Clements.

**Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church, of Willow Lake Township**, is located in the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 10. As far back as 1886 meetings were held at the residences respectively of John Hoffman, Emil Hoffman and Fred Fenger, who were among the early members of the church, together with Fred Raedel, Robert Hinz, Hr. Ristown and A. Beckman. The church edifice was not erected until ten years later—1896—at which time the congregation numbered only twelve members. This building cost \$1,750 and has since been used for the services of the church, which are usually conducted in the German language, though in English when required. In 1913 it was remodeled and enlarged at a cost of \$1,600. January 1, 1816, the congregation numbered forty-four members. A parsonage was built in 1901, across the road from the church, at a cost of \$1,250, thus materially increasing the value of the church property. A school had been built in the previous year—1900—costing \$400, the labor being furnished by the members of the

congregation. It is taught four days a week from October 1 to the latter part of May. In the forenoon religion and German are taught, a public school course being given in the afternoon. Until the year 1910 the congregation belonged to the Minnesota Synod, but since that time it has been a member of the Missouri Synod. The original congregation consisted of only three families, who were served by the pastor residing at Sanborn, services being held only every third, sometimes every fourth or fifth Sunday. The first four pastors, who resided at Sanborn and served this congregation as a mission, were: Rev. J. Bauer, 1886 to 1890; Rev. August Graebner, 1890 to 1893; Rev. Chr. Meyer, 1893 to 1899, and Rev. W. Schulze, 1899 to 1901. The first resident pastor was the Rev. H. Westphal, 1901 to 1902. He was followed by Rev. W. Schulze, 1902 to 1903; Rev. H. C. Kothe, 1903 to 1915, and since July 4, 1915, Rev. H. L. W. Schuetz, who also serves the church at Clements. The first births and baptisms, as recorded on the church book, were: Emma Maria Elizabeth Hoffman, daughter of John Hoffman; Paul Adolph Raedel, son of Fred Raedel, and Fred Herbert Fenger, son of Fred Fenger. The first marriages were: Herman Ristow and Bertha Schlesner; Edward Nehring and Margaret Reimer, and Cark Ziek and Adeline Fenger. The first deaths: Hugo Raedel, child of Fred Raedel; Henry Hinz, child of Robert Hinz; Augusta Beckman.

**Evangelical Lutheran Bethlehem Congregation, of Clements, Minn.** The pioneer members of this church were August Radatz, William Stricker, William Muenchow, J. Schlekau, Carl Kemfert, Albert Juhnke and Henry Schwantes. The first meetings were held in 1905 in the depot of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad at Clements, and also in the town hall. In the following year Rev. H. C. Kothe organized the congregation and the church building was erected which has since been its religious home, and which is valued at about \$3,000. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 180 persons. There is no parsonage, as the church is served by the pastor of Willow Lake church, now Rev. H. L. W. Schuetz, who succeeded Mr. Kothe July 4, 1915. There being also no school building, religious instruction is given for several weeks every spring in church and also in the Sunday school. January 1, 1916, there were thirty-seven members in the congregation. The services of the church are usually conducted in the German language, but occasionally in English. The first record of births and baptisms contained on the church book gives the names of Sylvester Backer, son of Gustave Backer; Leon Schlekau, son of J. Schlekau, and Louis Kahle, son of Christ Kahle. The first marriages were those of Adolph Zuehlke and Emma Fennern; Herman Schulz and Augusta Reetz, and Christian Jensen and Emma Hartwig. The first deaths recorded were those of Elsie Heidemann, Louis Kahle and Arthur Volk.

### **German Evangelical Lutheran.**

There is a German Evangelical Lutheran church in Sundown township.

### **German Methodist.**

There are two German Methodist churches in Redwood county, located respectively in Johnsonville and Morgan townships.

#### **The German Methodist Church of Johnsonville Township.**

When and where the first meetings of this society were held has not been definitely ascertained, but the church edifice was erected in 1889 and is still in use. It is a small building, valued at about \$1,000, the seating capacity of the auditorium being seventy-five persons. The congregation, which numbers thirty-four members, is composed of people of German birth or origin, and the German language is used in conducting services, the preaching services being held four times a month, one sermon being preached each Sunday. The present pastor is Rev. William Boemmels, who has served the church for one year, residing at Echo, Minn. Mr. Boemmels also serves two other congregations, both outside the county. In connection with this church there is a flourishing Sunday school. A cemetery forms part of the church property.

### **Evangelical Association.**

The Evangelical Association has four churches in Redwood county, which are located respectively in Wabasso, North Redwood, Lamberton and New Avon. In addition to these there is another which is located just across the line separating Charlestown township and Cottonwood county, but which is regarded generally as a Redwood county church.

#### **Pilgrim Church of the Evangelical Association at Wabasso.**

In the spring of 1900 the first members of this congregation met for worship at the Northwestern depot, Wabasso, and in the fall of the same year a church building was erected, which is still the religious home of the people. The pastors since the founding of the church have been as follows: C. F. Kachel, 1900 to 1901; C. G. Roesti, 1901 to 1902; H. Hensel, 1902 to 1906; B. Simon, 1906 to 1908; J. D. Moede, 1908 to 1911; C. C. Engelbart, 1911 to 1915; A. A. Schendel, 1915 to the present time. The members of the congregation are mostly of German origin and services are conducted in both the German and English languages. Among the pioneer members of this church were John Block, Christ Bagdons, Sr., Joe Neuenberg and Dan Zimmerle. The pastor, who resides in the parsonage in Wabasso, serves also Salem church in New Avon township.

**Salem Church of the Evangelical Association in New Avon Township**, was erected in 1894, previous to which services were

held in the nearby schoolhouse. The congregation now numbers sixty-two members and there is a well attended Sunday school. Services are conducted in the English language. The societies which aid in the work of the church are the Evangelical Ladies' Aid Society of New Avon, and the New Avon Cemetery Association. During the last two years the church has been served by the Rev. A. A. Schendel, who is also pastor of the church of this denomination at Wabasso, where he resides.

### **Roman Catholic**

The Roman Catholic church is represented in Redwood county by twelve churches, respectively located in Wanda, Walnut Grove, Clements, Wabasso, Seaforth, Lemberston, Sanborn, Redwood Falls, Lucan, Milroy, Morgan and Vesta.

**The Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls, Minn.** In the fall of 1870 the Rev. Alexander Berghold, pastor of the Holy Trinity Church at New Ulm, Minn., visited Redwood Falls and said mass in the home of John O'Hara, there being but six Catholic families then in Redwood Falls and vicinity. The number of Catholics had increased to but thirteen families by the summer of 1884, when the first church was erected. This was a frame building, 24 by 40 feet and cost \$900. Matthias Offermann and Frank M. O'Hara donated the two lots for the church. Mass was said in the church for the first time in the year 1885, by Rev. Father Ogulin, then pastor of the church of Immaculate Conception, St. Peter, Minn. The following priests attended to the spiritual wants of the people until the first pastor was appointed: Rev. Father Schnitzler, Mankato, Minn., 1885 to 1886; Rev. Father Tori, Sleepy Eye, Minn., 1886 to 1887; Rev. Father Reichel, Sleepy Eye, Minn., 1887 to 1888; Rev. Father Shönen, Madison, Minn., 1888 to 1890; Rev. Father Rosen, Fairfax, Minn., 1890 to 1893; Rev. Father Vanderlage, Morgan, Minn., 1893 to 1897. In 1897 Rev. James J. Woods was appointed resident pastor and so remained until the fall of 1908, when he was succeeded by Rev. Valentine Schiffrer, who stayed until August, 1910. The latter's successor was Rev. Joseph J. Tomek, who took charge of the parish on the first Sunday of August, that year, and who is still the pastor. Before coming here Father Tomek was stationed for three years as assistant in the Cathedral of St. Paul, at St. Paul, Minn.

Perhaps the most important event in the history of the parish was the building of the new church in 1914. This fine structure, which is the finest church edifice in the county, has the ground dimensions of 44 by 120 feet, its total cost being \$25,000. The corner stone of the new church was laid at 2:30 o'clock p.m., on the 8th of July, 1914, Rev. R. Schlinkert, of New Ulm, officiating



and preaching the sermon. The windows, costing \$75.00 each, were donated by the following members of the parish: The Lauterbach family, St. Michael; Altar Society, St. Catherine; Jackson family, The Resurrection; Oscar Warner, St. Margaret; O'Callaghan family; Catholic Order of Foresters; J. R. Keefe and P. Farrell, The Assumption; Mrs. C. Cummins, St. Joseph; Knights of Columbus, St. Patrick; J. J. Tomek, the Last Supper. The following made other donations: The Sewing Circle, pews costing \$750.00; Mrs. John Lauterbach, statue of Sacred Heart; Mrs. Elizabeth Zima, statue of St. Joseph; John Wilt, statue of St. Catherine; Fred Warner, statue of St. Ann; Miss C. Carroll, statue of St. Anthony. Mrs. Edward Cummins, baptismal font. Mass was said for the first time in the new church March 7, 1915.

The dedication of the church took place November 16, 1915, Bishop J. J. Lawler officiating and preaching the sermon at the Solemn High Mass. Rev. Valentine Schiffrer, former pastor, celebrated Mass. The services of dedication concluded in the afternoon at 2:30 o'clock with solemn benediction and the Rev. James Klein, of Sleepy Eye, Minn., preaching the sermon. Many clergy from the neighboring parishes were present at the dedication. The English language is used in preaching the sermons. The parish now contains seventy-five families. The societies connected with the church, or more or less closely affiliated with it, are the Altar Society, Catholic Order of Foresters, Knights of Columbus and the Sewing Circle. In the fall of 1897, when Father Woods was appointed resident pastor, the parsonage was erected. It is a modern frame building, with hot water heating system, electric lights, water and other conveniences, and cost \$3,000. In 1905 two lots were purchased across the street from the church for \$450, to serve as the site for a parochial school. The school has not yet been built but its erection will probably be an event of the near future. Religious instruction is given to the children every Saturday afternoon and Sunday after High Mass, forty-five children attending. The pastor of St. Catherine's also attends the church at Bechyn, Renville county, Minn., every second and fourth Sunday of the month, that parish consisting of sixty-five families.

**The Church of St. Ann, Wabasso, Minn.,** was organized by Father Woods of Redwood Falls, in 1900, the year in which the village of Wabasso was incorporated. The charter members were from parishes in the townships of Sheridan, Redwood Falls, Morgan and Willow Lake. The most prominent families were represented by the following members: George Goblirsch, John Goblirsch, George Mahal, Joseph Salfer, Theodore Daub, John Daub, Adolph Etle, Conrad Etle, Mrs. John Johanneck, Robert Collner, Robert Collner, John Collner, John Huber, George Citzman, George Bray, Carl Brau, Bernard Manderscheid, George



Mandel, Anton Welsch, John Stodick, Joseph Brix, Joseph Gutter, John Frank, Joseph Hammerschmidt, Frank Hagert, John J. Hoffman, Mathias Schueller, Adam Cins, John Zeren, George Baun, Wenzel Frank and John Koller. The last-mentioned was one of the most active organizers and his funeral was one of the first held in the church. The church edifice, a frame building 37x80 feet in dimensions, was erected in 1900, the year of organization, the first services being held September 9th of that year, with Father Woods as the officiating priest. Father Duescheck took charge in the winter of 1901 and remained until the fall of 1902. He was succeeded by Father Stuckelmat, who in turn was succeeded in 1907 by Father J. H. Leydeckers. The latter remained in charge of the parish until July, 1910, when the present Father Francis Roemer became pastor. In 1902 the present parsonage was built—a two-story frame structure, 32x36 feet, with an L, 16x16 feet in dimensions. The parish is in a flourishing condition. The societies more or less intimately connected with the church are the Altar Society, the Roman Catholic Benevolence Society, the Foresters, the Christian Mothers' Society and the St. Monica's Society.

**St. Mary's Church, of Seaforth, Minn.,** originated in the year 1880, when the first Mass was said in the town of Sheridan. The church was erected in 1886 and is a building valued at \$2,500. The parishioners being mostly of German nationality, sermons are preached in both the German and English languages. The pastor for the last eight years has been Rev. Father Roemer, who also served the churches at Wabasso and Vesta, his residence being in Wabasso. The societies affiliated with the church are the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Christian Mothers' Society and the Bohemian Society.

**Our Lady of Victories Church, Lucan, Minn.** In 1871 a little community of settlers in Westline township, Redwood county was known as the Murray Settlement. A few devoted members of the Catholic church met at the home of Martin Murray in the southeast part of section 13, Rev. Father Alexander Berghold coming from New Ulm by team occasionally to hold divine services. In 1879 Rev. Father Johnson of Ghent, Minn., held regular services there the first Monday of each month. From 1889 to 1894 monthly services were held at the home of J. B. Zeng, Sr., by the Rev. Father Vanderlager from Morgan, Minn., as pastor, J. B. Kollee, secretary, and J. B. Zeng, Sr., treasurer. During the years of 1895 to 1899 monthly services were held in the schoolhouse of district No. 79, Granite Rock township, then located in the northeast corner of section 29, Rev. Father Dash of Tracy, Minn., officiating. The parish was organized in the spring of 1899, Joseph McGough donating five acres of land in the southeast corner of section 13, Westline township as site for the church. That summer a frame

building, 32x56 feet, costing \$1,700, was erected on the land, Rev. Father Wood of Redwood Falls being in charge. The church thus organized had forty-eight charter members and officers. In the fall of 1893 Father Wood was succeeded by Rev. Father Emil Polasek from Lamberton. September 6, 1903, at a special meeting of the officers of the church held at the home of Thomas Reed, W. G. Costley, secretary, John Zeng, treasurer, it was voted that a division of the parish was advisable on account of the recent organization of the present villages of Lucan and Milroy. Sixty-five per cent of the members being located nearer Lucan, they bought the church building and in the fall of 1904 moved it to its present location in the village of Lucan. The rest of the members organized the present parish of St. Michael in Milroy, with John F. Cain, treasurer, and Thomas Reed, secretary. In the fall of 1903 Rev. Father Valentine Schatz took charge of the Lucan parish. A year later, in the fall of 1904, the present parish house of Lucan, a fine two and a half story square frame house, 32x36 feet, was built at a cost of \$3,500. Father Valentine was succeeded by Rev. Father F. Schafar, the present pastor. The present membership of the parish is about eighty. The following is a list of the charter members and officers: Joseph McGough,\* John Casserly, Sr., Peter Casserly, J. B. Zend, John Zeng,\* Mrs. John Cull, John Dobias, Sr., James Dobias, John Dobias, Jr., Patrick Curtin, Sr.,\* Patrick J. Dollan,\* John F. Cain, Martin Murray, John Ourado, Sr.,\* George Brey, ———Brey, W. G. Castley,\* Michael Kollar,\* John Koytine, S. Kartak,\* J. S. Mollitor,\* Frank Ouskey,\* Jacob Marshack,\* Charles Kollar, Andrew Petrack, Thomas Murphy, John Casserly, Jr., John Kollar,\* Hugh Reed, Joseph Casserly, Thomas Reed, James Casserly, Mike Mahoney,\* William Shanley, Sr., Daniel Redding, Charles Brau, Mike Skoblik,\* Pat Bulger,\* Thomas Walsh, Charles Gahagan, Andrew Grundler, Andrew Kollar, J. B. Wagner,\* Joseph Wagner,\* James Cain, Sr., George Bauer,\* and Nels Larson.\* Those whose names are marked with an asterisk (\*) went to Lucan. Those who went to Milroy were Mrs. John Cull, John Dobias, Jr., John F. Cain, Martin Murray, Hugh Reed, Joseph Casserly, Thomas Reed, Daniel Redding and Charles Gahagan. The others had died or moved away. In connection with the church there are several societies—a Young Girls' Sodility, a Men's Fraternal Society and an Altar Society. The church building is valued at \$4,000 or more.

**St. Joseph's Church, of Clements, Minn.,** was built in 1902, the first Mass being said January 4, 1903. The parishioners, numbering forty-five families, are mostly of German nationality, and both the English and German languages are used in preaching the sermons. The present pastor, Rev. John Schulte, O. M. T., who resides at Wanda, Minn., has served this parish since Novem-

ber, 1915. The church building is valued at about \$5,000. The affiliated societies are: St. Thomas (Ben's) Society, St. Aloysius (Young Men's) Society, St. Elizabeth's (Women's) Society, and St. Cecelia's (Young Ladies') Society.

**Church of St. Michael, Milroy, Minn.** The history of this church up to 1904 is identical with that of Our Lady of Victories, at Lucan, Minn. In September, 1903, at a special meeting of the officers of the church, it was voted to effect a division of the parish, which took place accordingly in the following year, the parish of St. Michael being organized with John F. Cain, treasurer and Thomas Reed, secretary. Among the first members of the parish were Mrs. John Cull, John Dobias, Jr., Martin Murray, Hugh Reed, Joseph Casserly, Daniel Redding and Charles Gahagan.

### **Norwegian Lutheran Synod.**

This denomination is represented in Redwood county by six churches, located respectively in Belview, Rock Dell, Delhi, Springdale, Walnut Grove and Revere.

**Rock Dell Lutheran Congregation** was organized November 28, 1872. Its first pastor was Rev. J. E. Berg, who resided at Sacred Heart, Minn. Its first board of trustees consisted of T. Mostod, T. Iverson and H. A. Bakke, T. Mostod serving also as secretary. Religious services were first conducted in a log house rented from T. A. Rudy, which at present is used as a horse barn. Rev. J. E. Berg served as pastor of the congregation for thirty years. In 1902 it severed connection with the Sacred Heart congregation, and together with Belview congregation, called Rev. A. O. Aasen, who served as pastor for twelve years. The present pastor is Rev. M. F. Mommsen. In 1890 the congregation built a church at a cost of \$4,000, which was at that time one of the finest country churches in this section. At the organization about fifty souls joined the church, while at present sixty-five families, or 350 souls are members. A parochial school has been maintained from the beginning and about 400 persons have been confirmed and admitted into the church. In 1913 a fine parsonage with modern improvements, was built in Belview at a cost of \$6,000. Besides meeting the current expenses, the congregation has given large sums to missions and charitable institutions—last year (1915) to the extent of \$2,500. Of those who joined the church at the beginning, ten are still living

### **Norwegian Lutheran United.**

The only church of this denomination in Redwood county is that located in Sundown township.

**Sundown Scandinavian Lutheran Church, in Sundown township,** is one of the older churches of the county, the congregation

having been organized May 22, 1874. Some of the pioneer members were R. Jensen, L. Hajem, M. Bredvold, C. Peterson, O. Olson, J. S. Johnsen, L. Bredvold, J. Bredvold, J. M. Christensen, and J. Lawrence, with families. The congregation was organized with a membership of eighteen, meetings being held in residences and schoolhouses and presided over by itinerent clergymen and evangelists. The first three pastors lived at Westbrook, coming to Sundown once a month. The settlers were poor and the pastors shared the hardships of their flocks. In 1886, when more prosperous times had arrived, a church building was erected in which the congregation has since worshipped, the Norwegian language being used, except a few sermons each year preached in English. The congregation at present numbers 294 members. In connection with the church there are two Ladies' Aid Societies and a Luther League. Since its organization the congregation has had but five pastors. The Rev. Lars Lund served from 1874 to 1876; L. O. Pederson, 1878 to 1881; C. J. Jacobsen, 1882 to 1901; R. K. Fjeldstad, 1901 to 1912; L. R. Floren, November 9, 1913, who is still pastor, being also the pastor of St. John's Lutheran church of Springfield, Minn., where he resides. Among the earliest records of the church there appears the following: Births—Anne Sophie Lorents, Niles Gustav Waag, Laura Pedersen. Deaths—Christian Josias Meyer, Ludwig Alfred Bredvold. Marriages—J. W. Johnson to Annie Molberg, R. Jorgensen to Maren Johnson. The church has meant much for the moral, intellectual and social life of the community, elevating and ennobling the people.

### Norwegian Lutheran Free.

Three churches of this denomination help to sustain the religious life of Redwood county, one being located in Lamberton, one in Milroy and another in Lucan.

### Swedish Lutheran.

Redwood county has two Swedish Lutheran churches—one in Springdale township and the other at Belview.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church, of Belview** is one of the comparatively recent acquisitions to the religious life of the county, the first meeting having been held in the Norwegian church in Belview, at 2:30 p.m., January 7, 1911. The pioneer members of the church were as follows: Axel Frederick Hultquist, his wife, Josephina Maria, and their six children; Adolph Gunnard Mattson; Carl Anders Tillman, his wife, Hulda Gustava Tillman; Carl Oscar Tillman; Leander Johnson, his wife, Matilda Christina Johnson, and their three children; Clara Sophia Johnson, Emma Maria Johnson; Axle Engberg, his wife, Alma Caroline

Engberg, and their two children; Johan Edward Engberg; Axle Wilhelm Mattson, his wife, Hilma Christina Mattson, and their three children. David Joseph Carlson, his wife, Elsa Maria Carlson, and their one child; Charly Bergquist, his wife, Josephina, and their one child; Swan F. Peterson, his wife, Sadey Peterson, and their five children; Ludwig Roseburg, his wife, Hilma Sophia Roseburg; Niles Johan E. Nelson, his wife, Matilda Elizabeth Nelson, and their one child; Ralph Verner Nelson; John Larson, his wife, Hildur Larson, and their nine children; Carl G. Telleson, his wife, Emmeli Telleson, and their three children; Otto Edwin Carlson; Anders Johan Sundine, his wife, Hilma Sundine; Elin Maria Carlson and Alber L. Nelson. Rev. S. A. Lindholm was elected vice pastor January 6, 1911, until a regular pastor could be procured, but resigned January 9, 1912. The congregation elected Rev. A. F. Lundquist the same day (this being their yearly meeting) to fill Rev. Lindholm's place, so that Rev. Lundquist served as vice pastor from January 9, 1912, until the regular pastor came. The latter was Rev. L. A. Lindahl, who took charge of the congregation August 17, 1912, and was installed August 23d of the same year. From October 31, 1915, to April 23, 1916, there was a vacancy, which was filled when the present pastor, Rev. Emil E. T. Anderson, took up the work of the church. The church edifice was built in 1914. The congregation now numbers 154 members. Both the Swedish and English languages are used, the former for the morning and the latter for the evening service. The church has no parsonage, the pastor residing at Gibbon, Minn., where he serves another congregation. A confirmation school is held two hours a week on Saturdays, eight months in the year. The church, however, is in intimate harmony with the public school. It is a religious and social center for the Swedish people and, by intermarriage, for those of other nationalities. The first birth and baptism was that of Kenneth Adolph Peterson, son of R. A. Peterson, M. D. and his wife, Evelyn. The first funeral was that of John Peter Friberg, who died August 20, 1911.

#### Danish Lutheran.

There are two Danish Lutheran Churches in Redwood county—one at Brookville and the other in Three Lakes township.

**Fredsminde Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookville.** The pioneer members of this church are Lars Walter, of Sleepy Eye, Minn., Hens Jensen, H. M. Jensen, M. Jensen, Theodiore Jensen and Rasmus Hansen, all of Evan, Minn. The first meetings of the congregation were held, about 1877, in what is known as Soren Hansen's schoolhouse. In 1891 a church edifice was erected, which is still in use, and which is valued at \$1,500. Its auditorium has a seating capacity of 125 persons. The preaching services,

which are held twice a month, are conducted in the Danish language. The first birth and baptism recorded are those of Alice Matilde Jepsen; the first marriage, that of Lars Mogensen to Caroline Larsen; the first death, that of Peter Andersen. Rev. L. Hansen was the first pastor of the church, serving as such from 1877 to 1882. He was followed by Rev. S. C. Madsen, 1883 to 1893; Rev. H. L. Dahlstrom, 1893 to 1895; Rev. J. C. Borgaard, 1896 to 1899; Rev. J. K. Jensen, 1900 to 1902; Rev. N. P. Lang, 1903 to 1907; Rev. H. W. Bonde, 1908 to 1912, and Rev. H. M. Hansen from 1912 up to the present time. In addition Mr. Hansen serves three other congregations. The church services are conducted in the Danish language. A Ladies' Aid and a Young Peoples' society are affiliated with the church and take an active and helpful part in its good work. Since 1909 a parochial school has been held in a public school building for one month each year, taught by a theological student from the seminary of the denomination. The studies include the Danish language, Bible history and the catechism. In connection with the church there is a library of 300 volumes.

**Bethany Danish Lutheran Church**, located near Gilfillan, Minn., had its origin in 1902, when the first meetings were held in Gilfillan public schoolhouse. Its pioneer members are J. B. Hansen, John Nielsen, Hans Christensen, J. Christensen, J. C. Hansen, Carl Christensen, and Hans Knudsen, all of Gilfillan, Minn. The present church building, erected in 1904, is valued at \$2,000. Its auditorium has a seating capacity of 200. The congregation now numbers eighty members. There is a Young People's Society connected with the church, the members of which are active and useful in religious work. The Rev. J. C. S. Borgaard was the pastor in charge from 1898 to 1899, the subsequent pastors being Rev. J. K. Jensen, 1900 to 1902; Rev. N. P. Land, 1903 to 1907; Rev. H. W. Bonde, 1908 to 1912; Rev. H. M. Jansen, from 1912 to the present time (1916). The services are conducted in the Danish language. The first birth and baptism recorded on the books of the church were those of Ethel Sylvine Kjargaard; the first marriage, that of Hans Peter Christensen to Lena Nielsen, and the first death that of Niels M. Nielsen.

### **Methodist Episcopal.**

Of this denomination there are seven churches in Redwood county, located respectively in Redwood Falls, Lamberton, Walnut Grove, Sanborn, Nettynnynt, Milroy and New Avon.

**First Methodist Episcopal Church, Redwood Falls, Minn.** This church is an institution of many years' growth, dating back to October 27, 1867, when Rev. Nathaniel Swift, who had charge of the Redwood Falls circuit belonging to the Mankato district,



started a class of eight members in an old building belonging to A. Northrop, which had been previously used as a saloon. From that time on the church has had a steady and healthy growth until it now has a membership of over 500 persons. The first church services were held in a hall on Second street. Later they were transferred to a schoolhouse on Jefferson street. A parsonage was built as early as 1870, but it was not until 1876 that the first church edifice was erected, at a cost of \$3,000, the material for it being hauled by team from New Ulm, which was at that time the nearest shipping point. A new parsonage was built in 1888. Within a few years after the old church was found too small to accommodate the growing membership, and, accordingly in 1894-5 the present edifice was erected. This is a splendid structure, valued at \$20,000, and among the equipment is a good pipe organ. The body of the old church was utilized in the new building and practically comprises the class-room wing of the present structure. The foundation and basement, now used as the dining parlors, was completed when the great financial panic of 1893 swept over the land. Business was at a standstill and so, for a time, was the Methodist church. Services were held in the basement for several years until brighter financial skies gave courage and means to finish the belated work. The church is now numerically and financially strong, and is fully organized. It has a flourishing Sunday school with an enrollment of about 400, which, with an Epworth League of sixty members provides for the training in Christian activities of young people. There are two Ladies' Aid Societies, a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, two Young People's Missionary organizations, namely: the Standard Bearers and the King's Heralds, and a Methodist Men's club for regular meetings during the winter months, which gives occasional suppers and invites noted speakers from abroad to address it. The predominating nationality of the congregation is American and the services are conducted in the English language. Among the pioneer members were Edward and Catherine March, Charles Folsom, E. Folsom, D. L. Hitchcock, P. D. Hitchcock and wife; Catherine McMillen and William Z. Ruter. The following is a list of the pastors: N. Swift, October, 1867 to 1868; C. F. Wright, 1868, who died October 5, 1869; D. W. Hammond, 1869 to 1871; A. McWright, 1871 to August, 1872; L. P. Smith, 1872 to 1875; E. Goodman, 1875 to 1876; George Galpin, 1876 to 1877; E. H. Bronson, 1877 to 1878; S. M. Davis, 1878 to 1879; C. H. S. Dunn, 1879 to 1881; John Pemberton, 1881 to 1883; W. L. Demorest, 1883 to 1884; C. Bristol, 1885; F. A. Cone, July, 1885 to October, 1885; George Geer, 1885 to 1887; F. A. Cone, 1887 to 1891; A. J. Williams, 1891 to 1892; L. L. Hanscom, 1892 to 1895; R. C. Gross, 1895 to 1896; J. F. Porter, August, 1896 to October, 1896; T. A. Jones, 1896 to 1897; Geo. H. Way, 1897 to 1899; C. H. Stevenson,



1899 to 1900; G. W. Lutz, 1900 to 1904; F. B. Cowgill, 1904 to 1905; H. V. Givler, 1905 to 1907; E. V. DuBois, 1907 to 1910; M. G. Shuman, 1910 to 1911; N. deM. Darrell, the present pastor, since 1911.

**The New Avon Methodist Episcopal Church** was organized in 1915 by the Rev. N. deM. Darrell. The old Methodist church building at Wabasso, vacant for some ten years, was moved to the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of section 12, New Avon township and thoroughly renovated. The church is in a flourishing condition, maintains a splendid Ladies' Aid Society and Sunday school, with sixty-five members. The Rev. Darrell is still in charge and during the coming winter, services will be held every Sunday.

**Milroy Methodist Church, Milroy, Minn.** This church was erected in 1904 and was formerly located on the opposite corner, on the present site of the B. Schmid residence, being afterwards moved to where it now stands. Among the pioneer members of the church was J. B. Christiansen and family. The members of the congregation are mostly of American birth and the English language is used in conducting services. The present pastor is Rev. William A. Mulder, who serves also the churches of this denomination at Amiret and Porter, Minn., his residence being in the former place. A Ladies' Aid Society is connected with the church and takes an active part in its works of benevolence.

### Presbyterian.

There are eight Presbyterian churches in Redwood county, located at Redwood Falls, Delhi, Morgan, Wabasso, Seaforth, Vesta, Underwood (school district 66) and Underwood (school district 36).

**The First Presbyterian Church at Redwood Falls** was organized March 9, 1867, by Rev. A. G. Rulifson, district secretary of the committee on Missions. James Harkness, Mrs. Maria Harkness, Birney Flynn, Mrs. Josephine H. C. Flynn, Mrs. Mary A. Davidson, Mrs. Lucinda W. Teppera, Lawrence O. Root, Mrs. Eliza C. Root, on profession, and Mrs. Matilda Hall, by letter, were received as members and pronounced duly organized as the First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls to be connected with the Presbytery of Dakota. The services were held in Behnke's hall on Second street until 1870, after which time the schoolhouse was used until the new church was ready for occupancy in 1871. The membership did not increase for some time, as there were only five members when Rev. S. D. Westfall became pastor in 1869. The first year of his pastorate, however, twenty-one members were added to the church roll. During Mr. Westfall's pastorate a church building was erected on Bridge street. The building

of a new church seventy miles from a railroad was an event of importance at that early day. It was not only that the people were a long way from any means of transportation, except by team, but that they seemed still farther from the four or five thousand dollars necessary to erect a church building that would be a credit to the community. The Redwood Falls people gave as generously as their means would permit, Mr. J. W. Paxton raised a considerable sum through eastern friends, and generous help was also received through the board of church erection. The ladies gave of their funds for the plastering. The lumber was hauled by ox teams from Mankato. The first service was held in the new church in September, 1871, but the building was not finished until the following year. The total cost was about five thousand dollars. Mr. Westfall preached in the afternoon at Beaver Falls and had some support from that charge. Following the resignation of Mr. Westfall late in 1871, Rev. W. B. Chamberlain was secured as stated supply in 1872 and preached for two years. Rev. H. A. Dodge became pastor in 1875 and remained five years. For two or three summers during the time, Mr. Dodge preached in the schoolhouse at Paxton in the afternoon. Rev. William Marsh of Illinois followed Mr. Dodge in charge of the church, but, owing to poor health, was obliged to leave within a few months and for a time the church was supplied by Rev. M. Loba. Rev. R. E. Anderson accepted a call to the church at the beginning of the new year. January 28, 1882, the church building burned, entailing a severe loss on the church and community. Nothing was saved except a few seats and a basket of books. The Gazette of the time said: "It was the most complete and attractive public building in the village." Fortunately, it had been insured by the ladies for \$3,000 and this proved a great help toward the building of a new church. Services were held in the courthouse until the fall of 1883, when the present church was ready for occupancy. It cost about \$7,000. Rev. J. G. Rhieldaffer, D.D., accepted a call in 1886. At this time the church became self-supporting. During this pastorate the lecture room was finished, the church was seated, a furnace put in, and other necessary improvements were made. The largest accession of members up to this date at any one time was twenty-two, added during this period. Rev. John Sinclair, having supplied the pulpit for six months, received a unanimous call in the spring of 1892. There was a marked improvement in many lines of church work during Mr. Sinclair's pastorate, especially worthy of note, being the increased interest of the young people in the work of the church and the advancement made by them in those things which are essential to its progress. A salient feature of the church work during Mr. Sinclair's pastorate was the purchase of a bell, which had been wanted by the congregation for a long time, but how to get

it was the question. Finally the ladies, the most persistent working force in all churches, lit on the expedient of arranging with the publishers to become sponsors for the thanksgiving number of the Gazette, which was only issued November 28, 1895, and called the "Ladies' Edition." Mr. Sinclair resigned in January, 1898, and was followed by Rev. F. G. Barackman, who took up the work May 1st and remained until the spring of 1902. A strong feature of Mr. Barackman's pastorate was his work among the young people. The Christian Endeavor Society was already well organized, but being a young man with a thorough training in the work among the young. Mr. Barackman was successful in interesting and holding the young people of the church. Rev. L. F. Badger came to the church as stated supply June 1, 1902, and at the expiration of a year was elected pastor. During his time as pastor a dining room and kitchen were put in the basement of the church and a manse was built. The largest accession of members to the church in its history was during Mr. Badger's pastorate. The increase mainly was the result of the meetings conducted in a tabernacle by Evangelist Sunday. Mr. Badger resigned in the spring of 1906 and in November was followed by Rev. R. F. Chambers. The present pastor, Rev. B. P. Holt, B. D., was installed June 13, 1916. In connection with the church there is a flourishing Sunday school, Missionary Society, Mite Society, Ladies' Aid Society and Christian Endeavor Society. There is also a good library. The church property has been well managed and the present value of the building is about ten thousand dollars.

**Seaforth Presbyterian Church** dates back to 1901, in which year a few people began to meet for services in the depot. The society grew slowly and it was not until 1912 that the church building was erected in which the congregation has since worshipped. This building, the auditorium of which has a seating capacity of 150, is valued at \$2,500. The services are conducted in the English language. The Rev. George Bollinger, the present pastor, assumed charge three years ago, and also ministers to the church at Wabasso. The congregation now numbers forty members, most of whom are American born. The average attendance in the Sunday school is twenty-eight.

### **Episcopal.**

There are two Episcopal churches located within the limits of Redwood county—one at Redwood Falls and the other in Paxton township.

**The Church of the Holy Communion, Redwood Falls.** The first service of the church was held by Bishop Whipple, July 16, 1869, while en route to the Sisseton and Wahpeton and Sioux

**Indians.** On his return trip he preached Sunday, July 25th. At this time there were no communicants of the church in Redwood Falls. No attempt was made for the planting of the church until 1876. In 1871 Judge H. D. Baldwin and family moved from Waseca county, Mrs. Baldwin being a communicant of the church. In 1876 a meeting was held at their residence for the purpose of organizing a Sunday school. Among those present were Mrs. H. D. Baldwin, Mrs. William Flinn, Mrs. Powell and Miss Anna E. Baldwin. From that time the Sunday school was kept up and Rev. E. Livermore of St. Peter's was asked to come and hold service. His first service was held March 12, 1876. About this time a church society was organized with Mrs. A. M. Northrop, president; Mrs. Willia Flinn, vice president; Mrs. N. Bixby, secretary, and Miss Anna E. Baldwin, treasurer. June 1, 1876, a class of six was confirmed by Bishop Whipple, one more being confirmed the next morning.

August 6, 1876, Rev. E. J. Hunter entered upon charge of the work, Dean Livermore continuing as priest in charge. Here Mr. Hunter completed the enclosing of the church. His last service was held June 9, 1878. Services were frequently held by the Dean. The Rev. Henry I. Gurr, a deacon, was appointed missionary at this place and Marshall and entered upon his work August 24, 1879. He remained but a short time, leaving about October 12, 1879. The services were again conducted by the Dean as opportunity offered. February 14, 1881, Rev. William Richmond was appointed to hold regular services the second Sunday of each month. His last service was held August 7, 1881. Dean Livermore once more took charge of the mission, giving a monthly service. From this time the mission was in charge of the clergy of St. Peter, the Dean until he resigned, April 22, 1883. Rev. Caleb Benham from July 22, 1883, to July 22, 1886. Rev. D. F. Thompson from November 1, 1886, to May 12, 1889. On this last named date the church was consecrated by Rev. M. N. Gilbert, assistant Bishop of the diocese, by the name of the Church of the Holy Communion. The Bishop's committee at the time of the consecration, May 12, 1889, were H. D. Baldwin, H. A. Baldwin, James McMillan, W. P. Dunnington, and S. S. Goodrich. The Rev. Stuart B. Purves was placed in charge of the work and held his first service July 7, 1889. Services were held every Sunday except the last Sunday of the month. On August 4, 1889, the mission was organized as the Parish of the Church of the Holy Communion, with Judge H. D. Baldwin as senior warden and Calvin W. French as Junior warden, and H. A. Baldwin, S. S. Goodrich, C. F. Thompson, C. V. Everett, James McMillan and Henry C. Ackman as vestrymen. At the following Easter parish meeting, the missionary having been previously advanced to the priesthood, was elected rector of the parish. The Rev. S. V. Purves held his last

service on February 28, 1892. Rev. Ed H. Clark took charge and held his first service the following Sunday. Mr. Clark remained only a couple of months or so and then the parish had no rector until Rev. Henry Beer took charge January 15, 1893. During the first year of Mr. Beer's incumbency the church building was moved to the east side of the church property and the building put in a good state of repair. Mr. Beer resigned his charge January, 1896, to accept missionary work in the newly created district of Alaska. On March 10, 1896, the Rev. W. H. Knowlton took charge and on Easter Day there were fifty-four communicants. On December 2, 1896, a chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, with eleven charter members, was organized by Mr. Hector Baxter, council member for Minnesota. The new rectory was completed early in November, 1896. In 1899 this parish, in comparison to its members and resources, led the Diocese in its contribution to missions and outside objects, giving \$108.20. Mr. Knowlton resigned February 13, 1900. The Rev. William Mitchell, rector of St. Luke's Church, Terre Haute, Ind., accepted the call of the vestry and entered upon his duties September 23, 1900. Several memorials were placed in the chancel during his rectorate. He resigned September 14, 1902, to become chaplain of Breck school at Wilder and rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd at Windom. On January 23, 1903, Rev. A. Coffin took charge of the parish, continuing as its rector until April 16, 1906, when he resigned and went to Pine Island, Minn. For the next seven months the parish was vacant. On November 4, 1906, Rev. Charles Stanley Mook, of the district of North Dakota, held his first service as rector. During 1909 the parish lost a great many of its members by death or removals, which seriously handicapped its work, but new members came in and the work was continued with enthusiasm in spite of difficulties. The present rector is Rev. A. A. Joss, D.D. In connection with the church there is a Ladies' Guild, the work of which is for the home church and for diocesan and foreign missions.

**Paxton.** The story of the Indian church in Paxton township is told elsewhere in this volume.

### Christian.

There are two churches of this denomination in Redwood county—in Redwood Falls and New Avon.

**The Christian Church in Redwood Falls** was organized December 20, 1888, by the Rev. Harrison, with thirty-four members. The pastors from that date to the present time have been as follows: Rev. J. G. Harrison, from December 20, 1888, to September, 1891; Rev. M. H. Tipton, January 30, 1892, to September 4, 1892; Rev. W. L. Stine, January 22, 1893, to 1895; Rev. Ernest Thornquest,

July 1, 1895, to May 3, 1896; Rev. S. P. Fullen, from May 17, 1896; Rev. K. W. White, from July 11, 1897; Rev. Henry Goodacre, from August 28, 1898; Rev. H. T. Sutton, from August 19, 1900; Rev. E. A. Orr, from May 1, 1901; Rev. F. L. Davis from November 29, 1902; Rev. B. C. Nicholson, from November 15, 1903; Rev. S. M. Smith, from October 1, 1908. Since the ministry of Mr. Smith the church has been served by: Rev. C. F. Martin, Rev. J. F. Ainsworth and the present pastor, Rev. Grover C. Schurman. The real activity of this church and its place among the other congregations begins with the ministry of Mr. Nicholson. The congregation having lost its church building by fire, he, with untiring zeal and energy started plans and inaugurated the work of erecting a new edifice, which resulted in the present beautiful and commodious building, one of the finest in southwest Minnesota. Work on the new building was commenced in the early part of 1906 and it was completed for dedication on January 27, 1907. Oliver W. Stewart of Chicago preached the dedication sermon. The total cost of the building was \$25,000. It is located diagonally northwest of the county courthouse, and across the street from the Methodist Episcopal church. It is built of gray cement blocks, with oak finished pews and white enamel walls. The auditorium proper will seat eight hundred people; and there is a modern Sunday-school plant in the basement that is not surpassed by anything in the state outside of the twin-cities and Duluth. Grover C. Schurman, the present pastor, with his wife, was educated at Drake University of Des Moines, Iowa, he in the theological course and she in music. They have been here since June 1, 1914, coming from the University Place church of Minneapolis, Minn.

**The Christian Church of New Avon Township** was recently organized. It is under the charge of, and was organized by Rev. Grover C. Schurman, pastor of the Christian church at Redwood Falls. The congregation occupies the building erected as a Union church many years ago, and for some time abandoned.

### **Congregational.**

Redwood county contains three Congregational churches—one at Walnut Grove, another at Belview and the third at Lamberton.

### **Seventh Day Adventist.**

The only Adventist church in Redwood county is located in Brookville.

**Brookville Church of the Seventh Day Adventist** denomination, is located in the town site of Wayburne, two and a half miles south of Morgan. The founders of this church were originally



members of the Golden Gate church, but about 35 years ago it was thought best to divide and the people living in Brookville township formed what was, and is known as the Brookville church. Between 35 and 40 years ago the Golden Gate church joined with the Baptists and Lutherans and erected a church in Brown county, where they met. Later, in 1888, the Brookville church joined the Baptists and Lutherans and built a union church in Brookville township. The first services of this church, however, were held in the homes of the members, in schoolhouses and in other churches, and were presided over by an elder, or leader, as is largely the case at present, with occasional visits from a regular pastor. In those early days the services were conducted in Danish, but now the English language is used almost exclusively. In 1902 the present church edifice was erected in Wayburne. After its erection, however, the water became so high that it could not be used, and it is now the intention to move it to a dryer and more convenient location. The congregation numbers 22 persons, most of all of whom are of Danish descent. In connection with the church there is a Sabbath school, Tract and Mission society and Missionary Volunteer society. Pending the removal of the church, services are held in the residences of some of the members. Among the pioneer members of this church were Jens Mortenson, Soren Peterson, Christopher Johnson, H. E. Hanson, Louis Johnson, J. H. Johnson, H. P. Nelson, Jens Johnson, Peter Christensen, H. N. Hanson, Hans Danielson and J. C. Larson. Most of the old members are dead or moved away, only a few being left. Nearly all were poor in this world's goods but rich in grace. With their oxen and lumber wagon, or sleigh, they would drive many miles to meeting, which began at eleven o'clock, after which there was Sabbath school, then five minutes recess, then Bible reading for two hours, and afterwards lunch and the drive home. Among those who served as elders were Jens Mortenson, Christopher Johnson, J. H. Gardner and Peter H. Christensen, Mr. Gardner serving many years as elder, treasurer and clerk. After the Brookfield church was organized it grew until it had reached a strength of thirty-six members, there being often fifty or more present in the Sabbath school. Later the membership diminished owing to removals, those who went away, however, helping to spread the faith in other localities. One from Golden Gate church has been a missionary in southeastern Africa for over twenty years. A member of the Brookville church is president of the Wisconsin conference and his son is also studying for the ministry, and so the influence of these pioneers widens, the final results being in the hands of God.



### Brethren.

This denomination has one church in the county, which is located in Vesta.

**References.** "A Canvass of Religious Life and Work in Redwood County," 1914, made by L. F. Badger, on behalf of the Mankato Presbytery and Redwood County Sunday Schools' Association, with the co-operation of the Presbyterian Department of Church and Country Life, Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., 156 Fifth avenue, New York.

Record books in the custody of the pastors of the various churches.

**Authorities.** Church of the Holy Communion (Episcopal), Redwood Falls; The Scenic City Souvenir, March, 1910; Souvenir Issue, Redwood Falls Sun, Oct. 22, 1915. Christian church, Redwood Falls; The Scenic City Souvenir, March, 1910; Souvenir Issue of Redwood Falls Sun, Oct. 22, 1915. First Presbyterian church, Redwood Falls; Souvenir of Redwood Falls, November, 1900; History of the Minnesota Valley, 1882; Rev. B. P. Holt, B. D., Redwood Falls. Presbyterian church, Seaforth; Rev. Geo. Bollinger, Seaforth. St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran church, Redwood Falls; Rev. A. Schaller. Milroy Methodist church; Rev. W. A. Mulder. First M. E. church, Redwood Falls; Rev. N. deM. Darrell; Souvenir History of the Minnesota Valley; Souvenir Issue Redwood Falls Sun, Oct. 22, 1915. Seventh Day Adventist church, Brookville; Mrs. H. P. Mortenson. Evangelical Lutheran Trinity church, Willow Lake; Rev. H. L. W. Schuetz. Evangelical Lutheran St. John, Vesta; Rev. P. R. Gedicke. Evangelical Lutheran church, Wanda; Ohio Synod; Rev. Th. Tyehsen. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church, Redwood Falls; Rev. A. Schaller. German Methodist church, Johnsonville; Rev. William B. Oem-mils. Danish Evangelical Lutheran church, Brookville; Rev. H. M. Hansen. Bethany Danish Lutheran church, Gilfillan; Rev. H. M. Hansen. St. John's Lutheran church, Sheridan township; Rev. J. X. Lenz. Lutheran church of Seaforth; Rev. J. X. Lenz. Bethany Lutheran church, Wabassa; Rev. J. X. Lenz. Immanuel Lutheran church, Belview; Rev. Emil E. T. Anderson. Sundown Scandinavian Lutheran church; Rev. L. J. Floren. Rock Dell Lutheran church; C. Knutson. Christian church, Redwood Falls; Scenic City Souvenir, March, 1910; Souvenir Issue, Redwood Falls Sun, Oct. 22, 1915. Pilgrim church, Evangelical Association, Wabasso; Rev. A. A. Schendel. Salem church, Evangelical Association, New Avon; Rev. A. A. Schendel. Church of St. Catherine (Roman Catholic), Redwood Falls; Rev. J. J. Tomek. St. Mary's Roman Catholic church, Seaforth; Rev. Fr. Roemer. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church, Clements; Rev. John Schulte.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

**BUTTER AND CHEESE MAKING.**

Being strictly an agricultural region, it is natural that Redwood county should number dairying among its most important industries. The pioneers kept a cow or two to supply the family table with milk and butter. The milk not used for drinking and cooking was placed in an earthenware crock or wooden bucket, until the cream rose, after which the cream was skimmed, and when a sufficient quantity, more or less soured was secured, was placed in an earthenware crock or wooden bucket, and stirred with a wooden paddle until the butter was formed. The butter was then salted, and sometimes colored, after which it was ready for household use, or to be traded at the stores for groceries and drygoods.

The estimates of the state statistician are available from 1869 to 1898. The statistics of 1869 and 1870 are of but little value for Redwood county comparisons, as the county then stretched far to the westward. In 1869 there were 4,925 pounds of butter made in Redwood county homes, and in 1870, the number of pounds made was 18,352.

In 1871, with 76 cows, the people of the county produced 9,678 pounds of butter and 765 pounds of cheese.

The number of cows increased rapidly until 1878, when 2,104 were reported. In 1879 this dropped to 2,061, and then increased to 8,918 in 1898.

The production of butter in homes increased rapidly until 1877, when the pounds of butter produced was 159,505, while the cheese production was 1,719, and the number of cows was 1,787.

In 1878 the production of butter dropped to 127,124 pounds, with a cheese production of 5,050, and cows numbered at 2,104. There was then an increase to 1885, when some 324,958 pounds of butter were made in Redwood county homes, there being that year 3,866 cows in the county, and the cheese production being 11,005.

In 1890, the butter production was 287,640, creameries having by that time been established. That year there were 5,228 cows and the cheese production was 6,298. The statistics of 1898 show an increase in butter production to 860,077 pounds, while the cows numbered 8,918, and the cheese production was but 625 pounds.

The year 1878 was a big year for the production of cheese, the production that year being 5,050 pounds. The cows that year numbered 2,104, and the butter production was 127,124. There was then a decline in cheese making until the early eighties. The

high tide of cheese making was reached in the middle eighties. In 1885, no less than 11,005 pounds of cheese were made in Redwood county. That year 324,958 pounds of butter were made. The cows numbered 3,866. There was a gradual decline in the industry in the late eighties and early nineties, and though about that time a cheese factory was established, it was not long maintained and cheese making in the homes declined until in 1898 only 625 pounds were made.

Government reports on the dairy industry of Redwood county are available for the census years of 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910. As already stated, in 1870, the county extended far beyond its present boundaries, and the figures for that year are of but little value for comparisons. It will be noted, too, that there is a decided difference between the figures of the census returns and the figures of the state statistician.

In 1870, there were 90 cows reported. The amount of butter manufactured was 5,275 pounds, and the amount of cheese, 2,900 pounds.

In 1880, there were 2,575 cows reported. About 405 pounds of milk was sold or sent to factories. The butter made on home farms amounted to 191,498 pounds, and the cheese made on home farms amounted to 3,820 pounds.

The census of 1890 showed 8,314 cows. The milk produced amounted to 2,535,603 pounds. The butter made amounted to 480,410 pounds, and the cheese made to 13,225 pounds.

In 1900 there were 2,054 farms reporting dairy products. The value of dairy products in the county was \$217,618. The value of dairy products consumed on farms was \$71,299. There were 4,417,896 gallons of milk produced and 1,526,687 gallons sold.

The gallons of cream sold amounted to 1,830. There were 638,477 pounds of butter made, and 380,960 pounds sold. There were 2,392 pounds of cheese made and 2,091 pounds sold.

The latest census figures available are those of 1910. There were 15,141 cows on farms reporting dairy products in Redwood county. There were 9,433 cows on farms reporting on milk produced. The milk produced on farms reporting was 3,062,169 gallons, of which 215,264 gallons were sold. The cream sold amounted to 54,562 pounds, and the butterfat sold amounted to 705,822. There were 415,143 pounds of butter produced, and 169,876 pounds sold. The value of dairy products excluding the home use of milk and cream was 343,067 and the receipts from dairy products sold was \$282,798.

It will be seen that the early butter making in the county was confined to the home. In 1882, there was still much wild land, the county was just recovering from the ravages of the grasshoppers, the tide of immigration was toward the Dakotas where land could be homesteaded. The central part of Redwood county was

still but thinly settled, and as land had to be purchased there, few settlers were coming in. There was still considerable speculation as to the future of the county. In that year, Col. McGlinchy, of Elgin, Ill., after speaking at the Redwood County Fair, said to a reporter of the St. Paul Pioneer Press:

"From my observation I find the county to be admirably adapted to dairy and stock purposes, possessing soil, water and grasses equal to any in the state. The record obtained at the State fair by this county for its display of grains and vegetables, for which it received the second premium, is an evidence of the productiveness of the soil and the enterprise of its farmer citizens. The county possesses natural drainage, surpassed by none and equalled by few, and being abundantly supplied with running water, it is pre-eminently adapted to this branch of husbandry. Its railroad facilities will enable the creamery man to get his products into market in excellent condition. With these and many other advantages which might be enumerated, it is surprising that some energetic creamery man has not located at Redwood Falls, where this business can be successfully prosecuted, and where it will be stimulated by the enterprising citizens of the town and vicinity. All that is necessary to make this business boom in Redwood county is immigration which will not be long wanting when the natural advantages of the county are made known abroad."

In 1887, two creameries were located in Redwood county, one at Lamberton, called the Hackley and Immil creamery, and the other at Redwood Falls, owned by A. P. McKinstry. At this time the crops in Redwood county were good; the creamery industry was new and the production was not large, yet, that which was produced was very good.

In 1889, there were three good sized creameries in Redwood county, one at Redwood Falls, under the name of the Redwood Creamery Co.; the second at Lamberton, called the Lamberton Creamery Co.; the third at Walnut Grove, called the Walnut Grove Creamery Co. As yet, there were no cheese factories reported in operation in Redwood county, although the creameries were showing good reports. Finally in 1891, a cheese factory was established at Redwood Falls by Charles Fleisher.

In 1898 there were fifteen creameries in Redwood county, all of the organizations were co-operative, and the creamery at Redwood Falls had 114 patrons; at Revere, 76 patrons; at Lamberton, 50 patrons; at Morgan, 70 patrons; at Sanborn, 60 patrons; at Sundown, 173 patrons; at Westline, 33 patrons; at Logan, 41 patrons; at Bellview, 50 patrons; at Springfield, 82 patrons; at New Avon, 63 patrons; at Bellview 52 patrons; at Johnsonville (postoffice Logan), 29 patrons; at Granite Rock (postoffice Rock), 30 patrons; at Walnut Grove, 40 patrons.

In 1901, there were twenty creameries in Redwood county, which placed Redwood among the seven counties having the largest number of creameries. Seventeen of the twenty creameries were co-operative and three were independent. There were 1,123 patrons which was equal comparatively to the best creamery counties. Over one million one hundred thousand pounds of butter were produced at a running expense of \$4,862.27. The names and postoffices of the creameries were as follows: Delhi, Delhi; S. & W. Creamery Company, Sundown; Logan, Logan; Lamberton, Lamberton; New Avon, New Avon; Redwood Falls, Redwood Falls; Rock Rock; Sanborn, Sanborn; Belleview, Belleview; Sheridan, Seaforth; Revere, Revere; Walnut Grove, Walnut Grove; Waterbury, Lamberton; Underwood, Ashford; Morgan, Morgan; Vesta, Vesta; Wanda, Wanda; Brookville, Evan; Three Lakes, Morgan; North Redwood, North Redwood.

For several years after this, the reports showed only sixteen or eighteen creameries in Redwood county, but the quality of the butter was very good. In 1908 it was a fact that Minnesota butter ranked the highest in quality in the markets of America. In national contests the buttermakers of the state had invariably won more prizes than the buttermakers of any other state in the Union. Minnesota creameries and cheese factories were famous for their excellence from a sanitary standpoint.

In Redwood county, in 1910, there were thirteen creameries, nine co-operative and four independent. There were 1411 patrons, 8,268 cows, and 1,109,663 pounds of butter made at a running expense of \$26,596. In 1911, there were eight co-operative and five independent creameries, 1,669 patrons, 12,010 cows, and 1,151,863 pounds of butter produced at a running expense of \$28,677. In 1912 there were seven co-operative and seven independent creameries, 1,834 patrons, 12,990 cows and 1,493,981 pounds of butter, made at a running expense of \$35,394. In 1913 there were fourteen creameries, seven co-operative and seven independent. There were 1,815 patrons, 11,358 cows, 1,493,745 pounds of butter made at a running expense of \$35,781. This shows that for the same number of creameries, there were not as many patrons nor as many cows; that the production of butter was less and the expense greater than in 1912. Therefore in 1914 there were only twelve creameries, five co-operative and seven independent, 1,346 patrons and 9,913 cows. The production of butter, 1,115,748 pounds was larger in proportion to the number of creameries; the running expense of \$25,459 was comparatively smaller. The butter produced is of a very good quality.

Minnesota has won ten of the twelve silk banners offered by the National Creamery Buttermakers' Association, at each of their conventions to the state whose average of the ten highest entries is the greatest.

This fact speaks for itself and shows that the state has a great future in the creamery industry. These banners have been won by the combined efforts of the dairymen and buttermakers in the state of Minnesota, in each county, and in each creamery.

In 1914 Redwood county ranked high in the creamery industry with a dozen fine creameries located there in the following places: Belview Creamery, Belview, ind.; Brookville Dairy Association, Morgan, co-op.; Clements Creamery Co., Clements, ind.; Lamberton Creamery Co., Lamberton, stock; Morgan Co-operative Creamery Association, Morgan, co-op.; North Redwood Co-operative Creamery, North Redwood, co-op.; Revere Creamery, Revere, ind.; Scenic City Creamery, Redwood Falls, ind.; Vesta Creamery, Vesta, ind.; Wabasso Creamery Co., Wabasso, co-op.; Walnut Grove Creamery Co., Walnut Grove, ind.; Consolidated Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, Wanda, co-op.

The report of the Minnesota State Dairy and Food Commissioner of 1914 for 1913 gives the following statistics: Creameries, 14; co-operative, 7; independent, 7; patrons, 1,815; cows, 11,358; milk received, 635,664 pounds; cream received, 4,587,100 pounds; butterfat, 1,238,744 pounds; butter made, 1,493,745; average price paid per pound for butterfat, 30.59 cents; average overrun, 20.58; paid patrons for fat, \$379,041.45; running expenses, \$35,781.10.

The report of the commissioner issued in 1915 for 1914 is as follows: Creameries, 12; co-operative, 5; independent, 7; patrons, 1,346; cows, 9,913; milk received, 147,212 pounds; cream received, 3,350,988 pounds; butterfat, 912,052; butter made, 1,115,748; average price paid for butter fat, 28.64 cents; average overrun, 21.34; paid patrons for fat, \$261,221.71; running expenses, \$26,459.55.

The decrease is due to the fact that much more milk and cream is being shipped outside the county than formerly.

**Authority.** Statistics of Minnesota, 1869-1898.

Federal Census, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910.

Reports of the State Dairy and Food Commissioner.

"The Development of the Dairy Products Industry of Minnesota," by Martin J. Anderson, Dairy and Food Department Bulletin, No. 52.

## CHAPTER XXX.

**AGRICULTURE OF TODAY.**

(By J. E. Neil.)

Redwood county is situated on the southern bank of the Minnesota river, in the southwestern part of the state. It is about 100 miles from St. Paul and Minneapolis, with which it is connected with the M. & St. L. and the Northwestern railroads.

The area of the county is 893.83 square miles or 572,052.87 acres, of which 557,122.74 acres are land, and 14,930.13 acres are water. The land surface is divided into about 2,311 farms.

The population of the county in 1910 was 18,425, of which 14,968 were native born, the foreign population being as follows: Germany, 1,527; Sweden, 268; Norway, 499; Great Britain and Ireland, 147; Austria, 247; Denmark, 458; other countries, 361. Their occupations are the ones incident to farm life. Two marble dressing establishments and a few cement plants constitute the manufacturing industry. Everything else in the county, the professions, merchandising and the like, are all dependent upon the farmers for their support.

The agriculture of any section is controlled to a great extent by its climate. The main factors which limit the growth of crops are temperature, rainfall and the amount of sunshine. In Renville county these elements are so favorable that a majority of the crops common to the temperate zone may be successfully grown and a failure in the important crops is unknown.

Rainfall is an important factor for most crops, because the amount of water in the soil at the critical period of development of the plant is necessary to produce a large crop. The length of the growing season is also very important and probably no other factor from the standpoint of the farmer should be given more consideration.

Redwood county is favored with these factors which help to make successful production of crops. The following statistics on the climatic conditions of the county are from the reports of the United States Department of Agriculture Weather Bureau from observations taken at Bird Island only a few miles from this county, over a period of twenty-two years.

Average precipitation (rainfall), 24.57 inches; average precipitation (snowfall), 25.8 inches; highest temperature recorded, 105 degrees; lowest temperature recorded, —38 degrees; prevailing wind direction, northwest; average date of first killing frost in autumn, September 25; average date of last killing frost in spring, May 9; earliest date of killing frost in autumn, September 9;



latest date of killing frost in spring, June 7; elevation of county above sea level, 1,000 feet.

The distribution of the rainfall is particularly favorable to agriculture, being in favorable years heaviest during the crop season and ample for the full development of crops. The most rainfall from the reports is shown to be in the months of April, May, June, July and August. The average date of the last killing frost in the spring and the first in autumn are May 9 and September 25, respectively. This gives an average length of growing season of 139 days which is ample for the growing of corn.

The soil of Redwood county is a black loam surface on all the prairie portion of the county, which runs into a brown sand surface along the streams, all being underlain with clay. In some portions of the county, such as the soil that is found along the bluffs of the Minnesota river, a very fine sand crops out in places, which is also true of portions of the Redwood river. These soils carry a very high percentage of mineral matter and while they are not regarded as a heavy soil they are very fertile and are much easier to handle than the extremely heavy soils. The soil is quite uniform in type and the shallow depressions which are seen over most of the county only need drainage to make them as valuable as the rest of the county.

The following outline of a survey of the soils of the county was taken in the fall of 1915 and shows the various types of soil found in the county, also the condition of the soil with reference to acidity.

Redwood County Soil Samples. Field 1—Sec. 3—112—36. N. W. Cobleigh, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a black loam surface, with a clay subsoil—neutral soil. Alfalfa sown alone 6/15, 12 pounds of Grim seed per acre. Stand 100 per cent. Inoculation 25.

Field 2—Sec. 8—112—36. McRae & Clague, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a black loam surface with a clay subsoil—intense acid.

Field 3—Sec. 18—112—36. W. D. Lines, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a brown sand surface, limestone pebbles, with a loam sub-surface with clay subsoil—neutral soil.

Field 4—Sec. 26—112—37. W. H. Gold, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a dark fine sand surface with a heavy loam subsoil (alluvial)—neutral soil.

Field 5—Sec. 20—112—37. E. Mosek, P. O. Seaforth. Soil is a brown sand surface, with fine sand subsoil—intense acid.

Field 6—Sec. 19—112—37. Michael Kramer Estate, P. O. Seaforth. Soil is a black fine sand surface, with a clay subsoil—very slight acid.

Field 7—Sec. 13—112—38. Chas. R. Furbell, P. O. Vesta.

Soil is a brown fine sand surface, with a coarse yellow sand subsoil—intense acid.

Field 8—Sec. 19—112—38. S. F. Scott, P. O. Vesta. Soil is a black sandy loam, with a clay subsoil—neutral. Sown 5-15-14 with one bushel barley, S. D. seed used. Inoculation with Commercial culture, stand 80 per cent. Inoculation 100 per cent. Seed was covered too deep.

Field 9—Sec. 19—112—38. D. J. McConnel, P. O. Vesta. Soil is a black fine sand surface with a coarse yellow sand subsoil—neutral.

Field 10—Sec. 16—112—39. Christ Rust, P. O. Vesta. Soil is a black fine sand surface, with a clay subsoil. Alluvial surface—intense acid.

Field 11—Sec. 33—112—39. James Scott, P. O. Milroy. Soil is a black clay loam, with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 12—Sec. 9—111—39. T. P. Pederson, P. O. Milroy. Soil is a black clay loam surface, with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 13—Sec. 6—110—39. M. Grotta, P. O. Milroy. Soil is a black sandy loam surface with a clay subsoil—alkaline.

Field 14—Sec. 8—112—39. P. H. Kelley, P. O. Tracy. Soil is a black sandy loam surface, with a heavy mixed subsoil—alluvial—neutral.

Field 15—Sec. 10—110—39. John Christianson, P. O. Walnut Grove. Soil is a black fine sand surface, with a sand subsoil—alluvial—strong acid.

Field 16—Sec. 13—110—39. Carl Soeh, P. O. Walnut Grove. Soil is a brown fine sand surface with a heavy sandy subsoil—distinct acid.

Field 17—Sec. 32—110—38. Albert Carlson, P. O. Walnut Grove. Soil is a brown fine sand surface with a clay subsoil—alkaline.

Field 18—Sec. 16—110—38. B. A. Fellefson, P. O. Walnut Grove. Soil is a black fine sand surface, with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 19—Sec. 4—110—38. Geo. Schmiessing, P. O. Lucan. Soil is a brown fine sand surface, with a clay subsoil—distinct acid.

Field 20—Sec. 27—111—38. Marty Lange, P. O. Lucan. Soil is a black loam surface, with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 21—Sec. 19—111—37. Albertina Kiecher, P. O. Wabasso. Soil is a dark loam surface, with a clay subsoil—slight acid.

Field 22—Sec. 22—111—37. Dan Zimmerle, P. O. Wabasso. Soil is a brown fine sand surface, with a clay subsoil—intense acid.

Field 23—Sec. 11—110—37. Otto Newman, P. O. Lamberton. Soil is a black loam surface, with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 24—Sec. 27—110—37. Stewart Rogers, P. O. Lamberton. Soil is a black clay loam surface, with a clay subsoil. Sown alone in 1915, S. D. seed. Stand 100 per cent. Inoculation 25 per cent. Neutral.

Field 25—Sec. 3—103—37. John Black, P. O. Lamberton. Soil is a brown sandy loam surface, with a clay subsoil—distinct acid.

Field 26—Sec. 19—109—36. G. W. Roger, P. O. Lamberton. Soil is a brown sandy loam surface, with a clay subsoil—slight acid. Sown in 1914, after wheat, with S. D. seed. Stand 85 per cent. Died out in spots, winter killed. Inoculation 50 per cent.

Field 27—Sec. 22—109—36. John Voss, P. O. Sanborn. Soil is a dark fine sand surface, with a sand subsurface and clay subsoil—(alluvial)—neutral.

Field 28—Sec. 1—109—36. Richard Flaig, P. O. Sanborn. Soil is a black sandy loam, with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 29—Sec. 20—110—35. C. G. Lawrence, P. O. Springfield. Soil is a black loam, with an old alfalfa field. Clay subsoil. Stand 100 per cent. No inoculation found. Neutral soil.

Field 30—Sec. 5—110—35. M. Neudecker, P. O. Clements. Soil is a black loam surface, with a clay subsoil. Old alfalfa field. Stand 100 per cent. Plant crowns small 5-10 stalks. No inoculation found. Grass is crowding in. Slight acid.

Field 31—Sec. 33—111—35. August Schenk, P. O. Clements. Soil is a black clay loam, with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 32—Sec. 34—111—35. J. Wolter, P. O. Clements. Soil is a black sand loam surface, with a clay subsoil—distinct acid.

Field 33—Sec. 31—111—34. Albert Kiesow, P. O. Morgan. Soil is a black loam surface, with a clay subsoil—intense acid.

Field 34—Sec. 16—111—34. A. B. Diffbenner, P. O. Morgan. Soil is a black loam surface with a clay subsoil—distinct acid.

Field 35—Sec. 28—112—34. Fred Ulrich, P. O. Morgan. Soil is a black loam surface, with a clay subsoil—intense acid.

Field 36—Sec. 16—112—34. E. H. Bluhm, P. O. Morton. Soil is a black sandy loam, with a clay subsoil—intense acid.

Field 37—Sec. 8—112—34. W. T. Tussenhay, P. O. Morton. Soil is a black sand surface, with a sand subsoil—neutral.

Field 38—Sec. 12—112—35. Frank Clague, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a light sand surface, with a gravel subsoil—strong acid.

Field 39—Sec. 3—112—35. A. C. March, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a black fine sandy surface, with a clay subsoil—strong acid.

Field 40—Sec. 6—112—35. I. P. Schmidt, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a black fine sand surface with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 41—Sec. 31—113—35. D. F. Crimmins, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a deep fine sandy loam surface, with a gravel subsoil (alluvial)—neutral. Is on top of bank between Minnesota and Redwood rivers. Sweet clover growing along the road.

Field 42—Sec. 19—113—35. George Hepner, P. O. North Redwood. Soil is a brown sand surface with a sand subsoil (alluvial)—strong acid.

Field 43—Sec. 14—113 and 114—36. H. Mority, P. O. Delhi. Soil is a brown sandy loam surface, with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 44—Sec. 35—113 and 114—36. D. W. Whittet, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a black loam surface, with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 45—Sec. 14—112—36. J. F. Connor, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a black loam surface, with a clay subsoil—intense acid. Old alfalfa field. Stand 100 per cent. Inoculation 100 per cent.

Field 46—Sec. 28—112—36. Wm. Johnson, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a black loam surface, with a clay subsoil—neutral.

Field 47—Sec. 8—111—36. G. I. Davis, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a black loam surface with a clay subsoil—distinct acid.

Field 48—Sec. 21—111—36. S. A. Witwer, P. O. Redwood Falls. Soil is a black loam surface with a clay subsoil—distinct acid. Old field, common seed used. Stand 85 per cent. Inoculation 50 per cent.

Field 49—Sec. 30—111—36. Martha Smith, P. O. Wabasso. Soil is a black loam surface, with a clay subsoil—strong acid.

Field 50—Sec. 25—111—37. Henry Meyer, P. O. Wabasso. Soil is a black loam surface with a clay subsoil—strong acid.

The first settlers located at Redwood Falls attracted by the water power. From Redwood Falls they spread up and down the Minnesota, and up the Redwood river. A few settlements were also made along the Cottonwood. The early railroads came to Redwood Falls and across the southern part of the county, and the development of the central part of the county did not come until many years later.

The parts of Minnesota over which the last continental ice sheet passed, is characterized by many lake-like depressions which hold water until late in the season, which not only makes considerable wet area, but prevents the early seeding of crops in the spring. Redwood county lies within this portion of the state and the farmers and officials of the county realize the necessity of drainage to this section and also the value of the land when it is drained. Up to the present time many thousands of dollars have been spent on drainage projects within the county and there is still under construction an extensive system of county and judicial ditches. These systems of drainage provide an outlet for the farms within their territory. Complete drain-

age can then be taken up by the individual farmers and the entire area can be thoroughly drained. As the drainage of the county has become more important it has become necessary to change the system that was started a few years ago. This is partly due to a better understanding of the work and partly due to an increase in the value of the land which has made it possible to bond the county heavier and thus put in more thorough systems of drainage. At the present time the old plow ditch, as it was called, is not in use at all. It, however, served its purpose and at one time was the only kind of drainage used in the county. The new system in use at the present time, and which was started a few years ago, provides for both open and tile ditches for main outlets. In many cases it being necessary to use an open ditch where it would not be practical to use tile on account of the excessive cost. The benefits of drainage are readily recognized by everyone and it is only necessary to travel a short distance in Redwood county until a good demonstration can be found as to the practicability of draining land. There is no one thing which will add more to the returns of a farm than a good thorough system of tile drainage. There is no upkeep to the system when properly laid; there is no waste land where the tile are placed and the productive capacity of the land is doubled by the constant water level. It goes hand in hand with road building which requires the removal of the surplus water before permanent roads can be built. These facts are all being made use of in the plans for drainage systems in the county and many sections of the county are in first class shape at the present time.

The natural outlet for all drainage in Redwood county is the Minnesota river. The Redwood river and the Cottonwood river, each supplemented by their tributaries carrying the water to the Minnesota. The Redwood river supplemented by Ramsey creek and Clear creek, takes care of the northwestern portion of the county, and the Cottonwood river, supplemented by Sleepy Eye creek on the north, which is the largest factor in direct drainage in Redwood county, and the several smaller creeks to the south, takes care of the southern, central and eastern portion of the county. The divide which separates the water going to the Minnesota river and the water going to the Des Moines river being located south of Tracy.

The farmers of Redwood county are taking up the idea of diversified farming very fast and the single crop system is being discarded almost entirely by the more stable system of growing corn, clover and livestock. Redwood county has proven its place as a great corn growing county, not only in the quantity produced, but also in the quality of the product, and the corn that is shown at any of the corn shows in this vicinity, or the larger

shows, amply proves this fact. At the present time several men in the county have taken up the breeding and improvement of corn for this locality; among these are, Thomas Hoskins, of North Redwood, who has done exceptionally well with Minn., No. 13; S. O. Mason & Sons, of Redwood Falls, with Minn., No. 13 and Silver King, and H. C. Lau, of Tracy, with Silver King. These men have established their corn and the varieties grown by them are the most prominent. There are many others in the county who have taken up the improvement of corn in a less degree and all are working toward the type of corn that is safe and matures well.

The climatic conditions of Redwood county are such that practically all of the crops common to the corn belt area can be grown successfully, the predominating ones being corn, oats, wheat, barley and rye with flax grown to some extent and buckwheat to a less degree. Among the tame grasses, timothy and red top are the most common, and these along with red clover, alsyke clover and alfalfa, which produce wonderful yields in all parts of the county, constitute a great combination for hay and pasture, as well as the important part which the clovers and alfalfa play in a crop rotation.

The growing of fruit in the county has become an important factor and at the present most of the common varieties of apples and plums are grown besides the bush fruits, such as raspberries, gooseberries and currants. The fruit grown in the county is all used locally, and on most of the farms all of the fruit needed for home use is produced. There is but one nursery in the county, belonging to J. M. Kenyon, of Lamberton, which does considerable business in that locality. The majority of the nursery stock used in the county comes from outside sources.

There are no commercial orchards in the county and outside of a small amount of local trade no fruit is shipped out.

The beginning of alfalfa growing in Redwood county, just as in many other sections of the country, cannot be said to have started at any particular, definite time. The early fields that were sown were certainly not started with the common opinion back of them, that the crop could be grown in this county with any degree of certainty. Much credit is, therefore, due to the first men who conceived the idea that this wonderful crop was worth a trial in this section of the country; and in this particular county. The way some of these older fields have developed and produced year after year is one of the biggest arguments in favor of encouraging the crop at the present time. It is true that there were many failures among these early fields, just as there are some failures today, and as there will, no doubt, continue to be for some little time yet, but these early pioneers who held their faith in the crop are today enthusiastic believers in

alfalfa. It has proved itself worthy of consideration and more and more people are beginning to see the value of it, so much so that it can now be classed as one of the substantial crops of the county.

Previous to the year of 1914 there were a great many different varieties of alfalfa tried out by different people in this county; the seed was also varied, coming from many different sections, south as well as west and north. The Grimm alfalfa was among these and was tried by several different men, who were wont to risk a little more money than the average, and the results from this seed have been uniformly good. It has withstood the winters, yielded good crops of hay and in a few instances some seed has been produced. The scarcity of the seed, which in turn brought up the price, has kept it from general use among the majority of the people. Several different strains of South Dakota and Montana seed were also tried with varying success.

In the spring of 1914 a campaign was started to encourage more farmers in the county to try some alfalfa in a small way, it being proven by the foregoing statements that alfalfa could be grown profitably, if care and judgment were exercised in the seeding of the crop. At this time thirty bushels of South Dakota dry land alfalfa seed was shipped into the county. This seed was distributed on between forty-five and fifty different farms. This does not include a number of other men, who started a field, but who did not procure seed through this shipment. The germination and the purity of this seed was very high and as a result good stands were secured on all of the fields, with the exception of two or three. This seed was sown under almost all possible conditions; some of it was seeded in the early spring with a nurse crop and some was seeded alone; other fields were sown at various other times through the year from May until August. In the majority of the cases, however, the seeding was done without a nurse crop. During the forepart of June and under these conditions the success was exceptionally good. This was especially true, where the ground was plowed during the forepart of May and harrowed and disced continuously until the time of seeding. All of these fields showed a good green color in September and went into the winter in good condition. Out of this lot only two or three fields were inoculated, either with soil or Commercial inoculation, the great trouble being the high price of Commercial inoculation and the failure to get soil from old established fields. The effects of the inoculation, however, can be seen much better in the future and it is probable that as the acreage is increased more inoculation will be practiced. Each one of these fields has served to act as a demonstration, as the majority of the seed was sown on farms where alfalfa had never been grown before, and it has



interested many who have thought little of it previous to this. This amount of seed covered about one hundred and thirty acres and this, together with what was sown otherwise, would bring the alfalfa acreage up to about one hundred and eighty acres for 1914.

This acreage was more than doubled in 1915 and in 1916 there were 204 fields of alfalfa with an average of about five acres to the field.

The livestock industry has grown with wonderful rapidity within the past few years and the number of cattle and hogs kept on each farm is increasing each year. The one serious drawback to the raising of hogs has been the scourge of cholera which has, at intervals, taken its toll of hogs in the county. In the year 1913 Redwood county passed through one of the worst scourges of hog cholera that it has ever experienced and nearly all parts of the county suffered heavy losses. At the beginning of November, 1913, when the county agent work was started in the country, a movement was started at once to hold the cholera in check for the coming year, if such a thing were possible. At the various meetings held in the county during the winter the cholera situation was taken up and the uses of serum, sanitation, etc., was discussed and by this means a clearer understanding of the disease was made to the people of the county.

Early in the spring of 1914 when a few of the first cases of cholera were reported the matter was taken up in detail with the state livestock sanitary board and with a representative of the board most of the township boards in the county were visited, and the matter of reporting outbreaks in their localities was taken up. At the same time the educational work was kept up at all meetings held in the county and a supply of serum was kept on hand for emergency use. Under this plan all outbreaks in the county were located and the disease did not assume the ravages that were apparent in 1913. This was, of course, due in part to a shortage of hogs in the county. In 1914 about 2,500 hogs were treated with serum with a saving of 90 per cent of the number treated, which shows very good results for the serum treatment, as in many of the herds the hogs were well advanced in the disease before the case was brought to the attention of the bureau. As a result of this careful watching there were but two cases of cholera in 1915 and these were of a very mild order. The direct organization of the work, handling of the serum, etc., was in charge of the county agent, J. E. Neil, and the results of this plan of work have been entirely satisfactory.

In the matter of the cattle industry, very rapid strides have been made. This industry shows up very prominently in the number of silos that have been built in the county during the past few years. In the year 1915 there were fifty-nine silos in

the county on June 1st; in 1916 there were one hundred silos in the county on June 1st and this will have increased considerable by the time this goes to press. This method of handling the roughage is recognized by everyone who handles livestock, and the only reason that there are not more silos at present is a lack of capital on the part of some and the high cost of filling machinery. This, however, is rapidly being overcome by a number of farmers joining together and working co-operatively.

Nearly all types of silos are found in Redwood county, from the wood stave, which was one of the earliest types, to the cement stave silo, which is the latest. Within the past year a number of cement silos of the Keystone type, a cement stave silo, have been erected in the vicinity of Redwood Falls, where the blocks for this type of silo are made. This has also been true in the part of Redwood county adjacent to Springfield, where a number of the clay block silos have been built. Both of these types of silos are of the permanent variety and this is an important factor to consider in the erection of a silo. The silo is a wonderful monument to the development of present day agriculture and its appearance on the many farms throughout the county spells definite progress in the livestock industry in Redwood county.

The dairy industry, while it is not one of the largest industries in the county, it has held steady within the past few years. There are at present five co-operative creameries in Redwood county located at North Redwood, Morgan, Brookville township, Wabasso and Wanda, which handle the major portion of the cream in their territory. These creameries have all been in operation for some time with the exception of the Wanda creamery, which was built in 1914 as a result of the consolidation of three old creameries located in Sundown, New Avon and Waterbury townships. Private creameries are in operation in several villages. Cream shipping stations are maintained in all of the towns of the county where there are no creameries and several of the towns have cream shipping stations in addition to the creameries.

The breeders of pure-bred livestock are increasing in numbers each year and at this time nearly all breeds of cattle are represented, likewise hogs and horses. Among the herds of cattle that have gained considerable prominence outside the county is the herd of Holstein cattle owned by Gold, Wise, and Gold of Redwood Falls and the Hereford herd of R. W. Christy of Underwood township. Besides these are the Shorthorn herds of Peter McKay of Delhi and Malcolm Dennistoun of Redwood Falls, who have figured very prominently in the county.

The following list includes the various other breeders of pure-bred livestock in the county who have gained considerable prominence. Short Horn Cattle: Peter McKay, Delhi; Thomas McKay,

Delhi; Banker & Dennistoun, Redwood Falls; Henry Petri, Redwood Falls; C. T. March, Redwood Falls; M. W. Dennistoun, Redwood Falls; Douglas Allen, Redwood Falls; Charles Garnhart, Redwood Falls; D. M. Tiffany, Redwood Falls; John Rohlik, Vesta; Frank Petri, Lucan; Nash Bros., Tracy; D. F. Riordan, Lamberton; Wasson Quinn, Lamberton. Hereford Cattle: R. W. Christy, Vesta; Frank Sheffield, Springfield; C. H. Fredriksen, Clements, Nash Bros., Tracy; W. H. Cook & Son, Sanborn. Polled Durham Cattle: Archie McDougal, Wabasso; J. M. Little, Seaforth. Aberdeen Angus Cattle: William Peterson, Belview; D. R. McCorquodale, Delhi; John Stevenson, Delhi. Holstein Cattle: Fred Hoepner, North Redwood; Gold, Wise & Gold, Redwood Falls; H. S. Kleckner, Redwood Falls; Byron Sweeley, Tracy; Charles Hensch, Sanborn. Jersey Cattle: William Bondeson, Walnut Grove; Axle Bondeson, Walnut Grove. Duroc Jersey Hogs: J. M. Little, Seaforth; Peter McKay, Delhi; Thomas McKay, Delhi; R. E. Fuller, Redwood Falls; J. F. Connor, Redwood Falls; Michael Skow, Springfield; H. C. Lau, Tracy; Wasson Quinn, Lamberton. Poland China Hogs: Thomas McKay, Delhi; Douglas Allen, Redwood Falls; C. T. March, Redwood Falls; Ernest Beerman, Wanda; T. A. Allen, Walnut Grove; D. F. Riordan, Lamberton. Chester White Hogs: John Ruder, Delhi; J. A. Metcalf, Redwood Falls; H. S. Kleckner, Redwood Falls. Percheron Horses: R. E. Fuller, Redwood Falls; C. C. King, Redwood Falls; Banker & Dennistoun, Redwood Falls, Jens Scott, Vesta. Clydesdale Horses: D. A. Dennistoun, Redwood Falls.

The poultry industry of Redwood county is one of its steady assets. Large numbers of poultry are kept on every farm and the production of eggs from Redwood county ranks among the best in the state; likewise the shipments of live poultry from the country surrounding the towns. The reliability of the farm flock is well recognized in the county and on many farms the poultry take charge of a good share of the grocery bills. A poultry show is held each year at Walnut Grove and there are several fanciers around this town who have taken a keen interest in the poultry business. A poultry exhibit is also held in connection with the county fair each year at Redwood Falls which has shown an increasing number of entries each year.

The farm improvements in Redwood county are among the best. Large commodious houses occupy the place of the older ones which housed the early settlers and the large barn and house with its spacious surroundings is one of the common sights on Redwood county farms. On many farms in the county the houses are entirely modern, being equipped with electric light, furnace or hot water heat, running water throughout the house, with laundry room and labor-saving washing machinery on the interior. Large groves which form a protection from the severe

winds in winter are seen on every farm and their value is counted among the valuable farm improvements.

A friendly community spirit is maintained between the business men and farmers, which is one of the most lasting and beneficial steps to be found in any community. The banking institutions of the county offer encouragement to agricultural enterprises such as loaning money to build silos and offering premium money for exhibits of the various agricultural products in the county, all of which tend to cement friendship and help towards that ideal relationship between town and country that goes along with the well-balanced community.

The county has within its borders three high schools which maintain agricultural departments, located at Redwood Falls, Morgan and Lamberton. At each one of these schools a competent agricultural man is employed whose duties are to teach agriculture in the schools and to carry on extension work among the farmers of the district. These men have taken up various phases of agricultural development in their districts, among which might be mentioned the boys' and girls' club work, which consists of corn and pig contests for the boys and bread baking and gardening for the girls. Many other lines of work are also undertaken by these men, such as testing seed corn, pruning fruit trees, etc.

The county agent work was started in Redwood county on November 1, 1913, which made Redwood county one of the first counties of the state to take up this line of extension work. Under this new form of agricultural development a part of the expense is born by the state, a part by the United States Government, and the remainder is raised in the county. In Redwood county the work was started in 1913 with J. E. Neil as county agent. One of the first steps that was necessary was to get in touch with the people of the county and perfect some means of keeping in touch with all parts of the county at all times. The purpose of the work being to bring together the farmers of the county for mutual co-operation and to get in touch with some of the problems that were confronting them. Among the things which were taken up at the beginning of the work was the control of hog cholera and the introduction of alfalfa. These two projects occupied a good share of the time of the first years work during which time there was no direct organization in the county to plan out and direct the work. It being necessary for the agent to take up such work as he deemed advisable to be done or which was necessary at the time.

During the first year many miscellaneous problems came up besides the major ones, such as the selection of seed corn, encouragement of boys' and girls' club work, pruning fruit trees, the selection of desirable sires among cattle and hogs, etc. This

continued until February, 1915, at which time the Farm Bureau was organized with representative men in nearly all of the townships of the county. By this plan a close contact was kept with all of the outlying parts of the county and more thorough and effective work was secured. Another phase of the work which occupied considerable time was the organization of farmers' clubs. This is one of the most effective means of developing community spirit and the result among the farmers' clubs of the county have shown this to be true. While most of the clubs were organized on the social basis many of them have taken up the commercial and educational side as well. Many other lines of work have been taken up, among these are the selection of breeding stock, farm management, drainage, silo construction, etc. This work was developing in standing and benefit to the people at a very rapid rate, but owing to a lack of funds the work was discontinued on August 1, 1916. This is a much regretted step by those in the county who were closely associated with the work and who were aware of what such an organization could do for the farmers of the county. The marks of the work of the organization and the county agent have been made and a great deal of credit is due to the loyal people who stood back of the plan in spite of an opposing board of county commissioners and the continuous deriding of those people who are found in every community and who oppose all progressive movements. During the brief period which this plan was in operation a big step in advance was made and the sudden lack of funds which caused the discontinuance of the work can only be marked with regret.

There are three farmers' co-operative shipping associations in this county, with headquarters at North Redwood, Morgan and Belview.

The railroads maintain stockyards at Belview, Delhi, North Redwood, Redwood Falls, Gilfillan, Morgan, Clements, Rowena, Wabasso, Lucan, Milroy, Wanda, Sanborn, Lamberton, Revere and Walnut Grove, this list embracing all the railroad stations in Redwood county except Wayburne.

Redwood county is acknowledged as being among the best and most prosperous stock-raising and agricultural counties in Minnesota. Its people are wideawake and keep step with the progressive march of the times in all that pertains to a civilization of happiness, industry and culture. The first permanent settlers of the county were farmers, and their object in coming was to till the soil.

All had many lessons to learn. Many of the pioneers were from foreign countries, and all the conditions were new. Some were farmers from the eastern states, and they, too, found circumstances absolutely changed. Some were men who had previously been engaged in other occupations, but who saw in the

opening of Minnesota an opportunity to secure a farm, together with the health and longevity that come from outdoor life. All of them, regardless of their previous circumstances, were able and willing to work; they had industry and courage and they were determined to win.

In the face of obstacles of which they had previously no knowledge they started to carve their fortunes in the wilderness. The country was new, there was no alternative but that success must be won from the soil, which was their only wealth and their only help. And in spite of all the obstacles and inconveniences, and notwithstanding the fact that in the face of many disasters hundreds of the pioneers left the county, those who stayed, and those who have come in since, have met with unbounded success. Nor is the end yet reached, for the county has in its agricultural and dairying resources a mine of wealth yet undeveloped, which, when the years roll on, will grow more and more valuable as the people become, through scientific methods, more and more able to utilize it.

The farms of Redwood county are similar to the farms of any other county having a rich soil. It has its good farms and its poor farms. Or, better stated, it has its good farmers and its poor farmers. Agriculture, like every other trade or profession, has its successes and its failures, but perhaps not as many complete failures.

The high altitude gives to Redwood county an ideal climate. Its mean temperature for summer is 70 degrees, the same as middle Illinois, Ohio, and southern Pennsylvania. The extreme heat that is felt in these states is here tempered by the breezes of the elevated plateau. Its higher latitude gives two hours more of sunshine than at Cincinnati. This, with an abundance of rainfall, 26.36 inches annually, on a rich soil, accounts for the rapid and vigorous growth of crops and their early maturity. There is a uniformity of temperature during the winter season in southern Minnesota, with bright sunshine, dry atmosphere, good sleighing and infrequent thaws that make life a pleasure in this bracing, healthy climate.

There was a time in Redwood county when, like all new lands, the first consideration was to build good barns for the housing of the flocks and herds, and the home was the most inconspicuous object in the landscape. As the farmers prospered, the log house disappeared, and now there are few log houses in the entire county. Now the farmer's house vies with the city residence, and has many of the modern conveniences. Where electric light and power cannot be secured, gasoline engines furnish power, and a number of farm houses are lighted by their own gas plants. By the use of elevated tanks in the house or barn, or pneumatic tanks in cellars, farm houses often have all the sanitary conveniences



of a house in town. Farmers realize the value of keeping their property in the best of shape. Houses and barns are well painted, lawns are carefully kept and flower gardens show that the people recognize that the things which beautify add a value to life as well as to property.

The rural telephone reaches practically every farm house, which, with rural mail delivery and the newspapers, places the farmer in close touch with the great markets and with the current of affairs of the outside world. There is no longer any isolation such as existed in the early days when pioneering meant privation; no longer any need for the denial of many of the luxuries as well as the comforts of life. The farmer can have his daily newspaper and his daily market reports; he can have the advantage of the circulating library, and his table can be supplied with whatever the village or city market may have to offer. The changes of the half-century have been more marked in scarcely any direction than in the conditions which surround life on the farm. The plodding ox which did the field and farm work has disappeared; the gang plow, the mower, the seeder, the harvester and the steam thresher are doing the work so laboriously and imperfectly done by the scythe, the cradle, the hand-sower, the flail and the horse-power thresher. The buggy, the carriage and now the automobile are almost universal among the conveniences of the farm, while the sewing machine, the organ and the piano are familiar objects in the inner life of the farm home. The future doubtless holds still more in the way of conveniences and comforts, but it can give nothing beyond what the great service the farmer has rendered and is rendering the country in the way of its development merits. There cannot but be deep regret, however much it is in the nature of things, that so few of those who bore the heat and burden of the day in the years of beginnings, have survived to enjoy the fruits which their labors produced.

“Their epitaphs are writ in furrows

Deep and wide,

The wheels of progress have passed on:

The silent pioneer is gone.

His ghost is moving down the trees,

And now we push the memories

Of bluff, bold men who dared and died

In foremost battle, quite aside.”

The threshing activities in Redwood county mark the birth of a new industry. The threshing of the grain each fall seems to be a sort of a natural part of the year's work and little is thought about it and the many changes that it has gone through in the past generation. In looking back over the development of the



county it is easily seen, however, that the threshing of the grain is one of the most important parts of the scheme that goes to make up the agriculture of the county and a little mention of its place is perhaps well founded.

This region was primarily a grain country and for many years was used for that almost entirely, and from the time the first crop was grown the threshing of that crop was of direct importance. When the earliest settlers came to this county and began growing wheat there were few markets; the roads were mostly trails which followed the higher lands and threshing at that time was much more difficult than at present.

The first machines were small, were run by horsepower and had to be moved from place to place by means of horses. The machines were fed by hand and the straw had to be taken away from the rear end of the machine with horses. This was usually done by means of a "bucker," the straw being pulled off to one side and burned to get it out of the way. The horsepower was soon supplanted however, by the steam engine, a small twelve to fourteen horsepower engine that also had to be pulled about with horses. These engines were a great revelation and soon crowded out the old horsepower. They were small and light and burned straw. This did away with a lot of the horses that were required to run the old horsepowers. Soon after the steam engines came into use and began to be moved with their own power the trials of the thresher began to grow less. The self-feeder and the blower came into use nearly the same time and this made a decided difference in the size of the crew about the machine. The first feeder came into the county about the year 1894. The self-feeder is still in use but has been modified into what is known as the wing-feeder. This is especially true of the larger machines. The blower has come to stay with very few changes, bringing a great deal of satisfaction to farmer and thresher as well. The first gasoline engine was used in the county about the year 1907, and at the present time this type of engine is growing rapidly and taking the place of the old steam engine. There are still a few straw burning engines in the county, but these are gradually declining in favor. This type of engine was a great boon in the early days when coal was scarce and straw was worthless to most people.

Right along with the changes that have taken place in the machines, many other factors have entered in. The first threshing rigs complete cost in the neighborhood of two thousand dollars, while at the present time one of the larger rigs will cost in the neighborhood of four thousand dollars and many of them more, depending on the engine used. The price of threshing, however, has varied little during this time. During the early days oats were threshed for three cents per bushel and wheat for five to

seven cents per bushel, and these prices are about the average today. The crew at the present being about half as large as formerly. At the present time there are many private rigs, or rigs owned by three or four parties, in different parts of the county, and their use appears to be coming more general. In favorable years the threshing season usually lasts about two months, much of the grain being threshed from the stack. Some shock threshing is being done in all parts of the county, but in general the people do not wait for the machine but prefer to stack their grain instead.

**Wild and Tame Grasses of Redwood County**, by S. F. Scott, cashier of State Bank of Vesta. The wild grasses of Redwood county are numerous and different varieties thrive in the various kinds of soil and conditions. The upland grows the bluejoint grass which makes good pasture and hay. The lower lands grow the blue top grass which makes a fine grade of hay. The sloughs grow the ordinary slough grass and also the winter grass, which has a triangular stem and is of a rank dark green color and is not eaten by stock except in the winter time. It grows in water mostly and the cattle will walk on the ice in winter and eat it greedily.

The tame grasses most grown are timothy, red clover or the different varieties, alsike clover and white clover. There is a new clover appearing with a yellow bloom and it resembles alfalfa in some ways more than it does clover. The name of it is not known locally.

Alfalfa is being grown quite successfully of late years and there seems to be no difficulty in securing a good stand if the seed bed is firm enough and the seed is not covered too deeply. Inoculation is not found to be necessary but an application of lime would be quite beneficial. It is also good policy to apply a good coat of manure on the ground before seeding alfalfa. The greatest drawback to a good stand of alfalfa is to have the ground too loose when the alfalfa is seeded. On that account, the best results have been from sowing the seed on corn ground and making a fine seed bed by disking and dragging the corn stubble without plowing it. The disking and dragging is done several times between spring and the time of seeding and when the weeds have been eradicated the alfalfa is sown at the rate of eighteen pounds per acre, sometimes along with a nurse crop of barley sown at the rate of one bushel per acre and sometimes the alfalfa is sown alone. Broadcasting is considered the best way to sow, as a drill is apt to plant the seed too deeply in some places, and by broadcasting the seed is not buried so deeply. The roots rapidly grow in length and thickness and keep increasing with age.

Kentucky blue grass is getting well established and is the mainstay of the stockman, as it is relished at any time in the

year by stock, and they make their own living on it at all times except when it is covered with snow. S. P. Hicks of Tracy has five sections of land and keeps a part of it in blue grass pasture and always has on hand from 500 to 700 head of high grade Polled Angus cattle. C. Frederickson of Redwood Falls also has most of his land in blue grass pasture and keeps a large number of cattle. He gets good interest on land worth \$100 per acre in that way.

The grass crop is becoming more important each year and farmers are beginning to realize that nothing will restore the fertility of the soil so quickly and at the same time give a good profit as the grass crop.

### FARM NAMES.

Many of the farm owners in Redwood county have shown their progressive spirit by giving names to their farms. Twenty-one such names have been legally registered in the county, seven in 1910, two in 1911, none in 1912, four in 1913, two in 1914, four in 1915, and two in 1916.

1910. "Fairview" farm is located in section 16, town 111, range 35 (Three Lakes), and is owned by Holmer Johnson.

"Pine Grove Stock Farm" is located in sections 11 and 14, town 112, range 35, and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lusenhop.

"Riverside Nursery and Fruit Farm" is located in section 15, town 109, range 37, and is owned by J. M. Kenyon.

"Golden Flat Farm" is located in sections 33 and 34, town 110, range 39, and is owned by W. H. Knott.

"Pleasant Grove Farm" is located in section 10, town 113, range 37, and is owned by John E. Nelson.

"Winn Brothers Pleasant Grove Farm" is located in section 34, town 112, range 36, and is owned by Winn Brothers.

"Sunnyside Farm" is located in section 33, town 112, range 36, and is owned by W. E. Winn.

1911. "Four Hill Farm" is located in sections 14 and 15, town 111, range 38, and is owned by N. H. Haag.

"Banner Farm" is located in sections 11 and 12, town 109, range 36, and is owned by George A. Flaig and Helena Flaig.

1913. "North Star Farm" is located in section 11, town 112, range 35, and is owned by J. C. Bruer.

"Sun Prairie Farm" is located in section 1, town 109, range 36, and is owned by John Timlin.

"Lorndale Farm" is located in section 25, town 113, range 37, and is owned by Thomas McKay.

"Maple Grove Farm" is located in sections 26, 35 and 36, town 110, range 36, and is owned by H. F. Meyer.

1914. "Pleasant Orchard Riverside Farm" is located in section 32, town 113, range 35, and is owned by A. H. Seebeck.

"Ashland Farm" is located in section 28, town 112, range 35, and is owned by M. W. Dennistoun.

1915. "Pleasant Hill Stock Farm" is located in sections 27 and 28, town 110, range 34, and is owned by S. J. Hansen.

"Rock Dell Farm" is located in section 25, town 114, range 37, and is owned by D. R. McCorquodale.

"Pleasant View Farm" is located in section 14, town 112, range 36, and is owned by J. F. Conner.

"Four Oaks Farm" is located in section 28, town 112, range 36, and is owned by William Jamison.

1916. "Sunny Hill Farm" is located in section 11, town 113, range 37, and is owned by John Hines.

"Long Lane Stock Farm" is located in section 29, town 113, range 37, and is owned by William Peterson.

### COUNTY FAIRS.

The county fair, maintained for over forty years, has been a vital factor in the social and agricultural life of Redwood county. It has not only reflected the agricultural life of the people, but in many cases had led it. It has been a great "get-together" movement of all the residents in the county. Its prizes have encouraged development along all lines of farm and domestic endeavor. The fair, under capable management, and in the hands of enthusiastic supporters, is now in a flourishing condition, and is annually growing in importance, value and influence.

The original Redwood County Agricultural Society was organized in 1873 and held its first fair that fall on a tract of land on the west side of the Redwood river, not far from where the old road crossed that river at Redwood Falls. The first officers were: President, J. S. G. Honner; vice president, H. D. Baldwin; treasurer, E. A. Chandler; recording secretary, G. W. Bralley; corresponding secretary, William B. Herriott.

In 1882 the society was reorganized and incorporated, and a tract of forty acres was purchased, this being the present site of the fair grounds. The incorporators were: T. H. King, Delhi; O. A. Mason, Paxton; O. L. Dornberg, Redwood Falls; A. D. McLean, Delhi; J. W. March, Paxton; G. E. McKay, Redwood Falls; A. E. King, Redwood Falls; George Holden, Delhi; Thomas March, Paxton; H. D. Everett, Redwood Falls; Archibald Stewart, Kintire; A. T. Stevenson, Delhi; Robert Parker, Three Lakes; Andrew Stewart Delhi; Henry F. Clippell, Honner; I. M. Van Scaach, Redwood Falls and Franklin Ensign, Redwood Falls.

This association held a fair every year. The discouragements were many, but the promoters persevered, contributions from the

officers and the business men often being necessary to pay the current expenses, especially on those years when wet weather prevented a large attendance. The association, as incorporated in 1882 was to run twenty years. At the close of this period, the officers for many years having been Joseph Tyson, president; O. L. Dornberg, secretary, and G. E. McKay, treasurer, the business of the association was closed. For several years thereafter street fairs were held at Redwood Falls, with agricultural exhibits in the court house. This was done under a new Redwood County Agricultural Society incorporated Aug. 21, 1905, by H. A. Baldwin, H. M. Aune, C. Fred Thompson, A. M. Welles, Frank G. Hubbard, A. M. Dennistoun, H. G. Schmahl, Julius A. Schmahl, O. L. Dornberg, S. G. Peterson, W. H. Gold, J. P. Cooper, E. A. Pease, Fred L. Warner, George L. Evans, S. J. Race, J. A. Johnson, I. M. Tompkins, C. V. Everett, W. J. Smithers, C. W. Mead, William S. Brammer, H. M. Hitchcock and C. T. Howard. Of these, the first directors were: F. W. Philbrick, W. H. Gold, J. A. Schmahl, O. L. Dornberg, H. M. Aune, H. A. Baldwin, F. G. Hubbard, C. H. Mead and C. F. Howard. The capital was placed at \$10,000 and divided into shares of \$5 each. On Dec. 26, 1912, the articles were amended so as to place the value of the shares at \$10 each.

This association continued to hold street fairs until 1911, when the old grounds were purchased, and a splendid county fair inaugurated. The half mile track, which is considered the best in the state, was improved at a cost of \$2,000, and an old building erected in the eighties, 24 by 24 frame, and still standing, was converted into a poultry exhibition house. The erection of new buildings was started at once. In 1911 there were constructed a frame barn, 32 by 100, and a frame trotting horse barn, 120 by 8 feet, since lengthened to 160 by 8 feet. In 1912 many more improvements were made. "Floral Hall," a splendid exhibition building, was erected of cement blocks with a substantial cement floor. The building is in the form of a cross, the arms of the cross being 100 feet long and 30 feet wide. A horse barn of cement blocks was also put up, its size being 32 by 100 feet. Stables were erected the same year. In 1913 the cattle barn, 32 by 100 feet, of cement blocks, was erected, while the grandstand, 160 by 34 feet was put up in 1912 and 1914. All the cement buildings have metal roofs and are fire proof and sanitary.

In 1915, the school districts of the county erected a sightly cement building for the purpose of exhibiting the work done in the schools. This splendid project, costing \$1,600, is a decidedly progressive move, speaking highly of the character of the educational work done in the county.

The fair property, as it stands, is valued at about \$15,000. The total indebtedness is about \$7,000. Something like \$6,500 is

spent annually in purses, premiums and attractions, in addition to what is put into the buildings and grounds. Prizes are awarded for every branch of farm, home, and school endeavor, the annual prizes for exhibitions amounting to some \$1,500.

The present officers of the association are: President, Rud. Stensvad; vice president, George Phillips; secretary, C. V. Everett, C. A. Luscher, Frank G. Hubbard, A. C. Dolliff, George Phillips, M. W. Dennistoun, John Colville and A. D. Stewart.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

### THE BISHOP WHIPPLE MISSION.

The Right Rev. Henry B. Whipple, first Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota, visited the Lower Agency on Friday, June 22, 1860, met the Sioux chiefs in council, visited the farmer Indians, held services at the home of Dr. Daniels, and confirmed Captain DeRossey, of the United States army. Sunday, June 24, he preached to the Indians at Dr. Daniel's house, and received from White Dog the pledge that his people would receive a Christian teacher with warm hearts.

In his "Lights and Shadows of a Long Episcopate," the Bishop gives an interesting account of this work. It was the time of the annual payment. There were 2,500 wild Indians assembled from the prairies. Thirty miles up the river, at Redwood, the Presbyterians had a mission. There was not a single Christian teacher at the Lower Agency. The Lower Indians by the treaty were entitled to \$6,000 a year for schools, and this was expended for eight years, but not a single child had learned to read. After they were removed to the upper Minnesota river they sold the government 800,000 acres more. Three years had now passed, and they had never received anything except a few thousand dollars of worthless goods. The slumbering fires of hatred and revenge were ready to break out. This was their first payment. The lower Sioux were entitled to \$20 each, \$100 for a family of five. It was at this time that the bishop and the Rev. Mr. Breck visited the Lower Sioux Agency to confer with the Indians in regard to planting a mission in this unoccupied field. One afternoon Wabasha, Taopi and Wah-keen-washta came and asked a council with the bishop. They said: "We are looking into a grave. We hear you come from the Great Spirit to help His poor children." They told the story of their removal, the second sale of land. They asked us for schools and teachers. "I promised them," said the bishop, "I would ask God for help, and if He gave me the man and means the mission should be

planted." On my return to Faribault, one day Samuel D. Hinman, then a candidate for Holy Orders, came to me and said: "Bishop, I have been learning the Sioux language and would like to become a missionary to them." The result was that Mr. Hinman decided to consecrate himself to that work, and was ordained deacon September 20, and on the eve of October 5 he and Mrs. Hinman, then a bride, arrived at his field of labor among the Lower Sioux. Emily West, who had been with Mr. Breck among the Chippeways, and had had the care of the Indian children in the Mission House in Faribault, accompanied Mr. Hinman as teacher.

The work was begun in a rude one-story building which served for parsonage, school and church. The congregations were small, but the children were gathered in. Among the little ones who were made members of Christ's fold was a daughter of Good Thunder, twelve years of age, who the bishop received into the Indian school at Faribault. This beautiful child of the plains grew into the rare gentleness of Christian childhood. She had been baptized Lydia, from Mrs. Sigourney, who was a devoted friend of our early work. After a time Lydia was taken ill. The wild Sioux laughed at Good Thunder and said: "What could you expect? Your child lives with our enemies; they have poisoned her and she will die." When told what these Indians had said, Lydia replied: "These Chippeway children are my brothers and sisters; we pray to the same Saviour and we are going to His home. Every day they bring me flowers and pick me the first ripe strawberries. We are Christ's children and are no longer enemies."

When it became certain that little Lydia was to be early called the father started with her for their home a hundred miles away. "I gave him a letter," writes the bishop, "in which I asked all white people to be kind to the father for the sake of his Christian child. When we met in the Sioux country, he told me, with deep emotion, of the kindness he had received, how some motherly woman had prepared dainty food for the dying child and given her the best room, adding, 'I shall never forget the white man's kindness.'"

He did not forget. "I had the privilege of meeting my child again. It was on a beautiful summer afternoon—cloudless sky—the air soft as if wafted from the shores of Paradise. Mrs. Whipple was with me and as she stooped in the Indian tepee to kiss the child, Lydia said, 'I am glad to see you once more before I go to Jesus' home.' As she saw her father weeping she said, 'Don't cry, father, I am going where no one is sick, and some day Jesus will lead you there.' So she beguiled the hours till she fell asleep. The burial service was in her own musical tongue, and there was a short address. We sang in Dacotah, 'Jesus, Lover



of My Soul,' and as we committed her dust to dust, simultaneously every Indian came forward and dropped a handful of wild flowers in the grave. Elizabeth and Katie Biddle, Caroline Harris and Sarah Farnum were present, and we all felt that God had overpaid all our work in this blessed death of one of Christ's little ones.

"There was at this time a noted orator of the Sioux, Red Owl. When he spoke, his words seemed to sway his hearers as leaves are moved by the wind. He never came to church, and once laughed in derision at hearing an Indian child read. There hung in the school roof a picture of the 'Ecce Homo,' that sweet sad face of our dear Lord crowned with thorns. Red Owl stopped before it and said, 'Who is that? Why are His hands bound? Why has he those thorns on His head?' Again and again he came to look on that picture, and each time asked some question about the Son of the Great Spirit, His mission to earth, His death, and His resurrection.

"Not long after Red Owl fell dangerously ill. Shortly before his death he sent for his friends and said, 'I know that story of the missionary is true, I have it in my heart. When I am dead I want you to put a cross over my grave, so that, as the Indians go by, they may see what was in Red Owl's heart.'"

Our story would be lacking in graphic picturesqueness without the following incident. "At my visit I was pained to witness a scalp dance near our mission house. A party of Sioux had visited the Chippeway country and killed a worthy Indian who left a widow and four fatherless children. I went with Mr. Hinman and the interpreter to Wabasha's village, and calling on the old chief I said, 'Wabasha, you asked me for a missionary. I pitied your people. I have sent you a teacher to show you the good way. I have given you a school. I came to see my mission, and the sight which meets me is a bloody scalp dance. I knew that murdered Chippeway. His wife is asking for her husband. His children are crying for their father. The Great Spirit looks down from heaven and sees His red child laughing over his bloody hands. Wabasha, the Great Spirit is angry. Some day He will look Wabasha in the face and ask him, "Where is your Ojibway brother?"' When I had finished my speech, Wabasha blew a cloud of smoke out of his mouth and, smiling, said, 'White man goes to war with his own brother who lives in same country, and kills more than Wabasha can count as long as he lives. Great Spirit looks down from heaven and says, "Good white man. Has My book. Me love him very much. I have good place for him when he dies." Red man has no Great Spirit book. Poor man. He goes, kills one Indian, only ONE man,' holding up his little finger. 'Great Spirit very mad—put Red man in bad place. Wabasha don't believe it.'"

Years afterwards Old Wabasha, one of nature's noblemen, became a humble follower of Him who prayed from the cross, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

The first visit of the bishop to the mission was made December 12 and 13, that year. At this visit he confirmed two white persons, and administered the Holy Communion. The school numbered fifty pupils, and many of the Indians were regular attendants on public worship. There was much to cheer and encourage. It was a Christian household among a heathen people.

The next visit of the bishop was in June, 1861. On the twenty-seventh he confirmed seven persons in the Mission House of St. John. The bishop says: "The merciful goodness of God has overpaid all my efforts in the first fruits of these Dacotahs to the Church. The mission has had an average of fifty scholars, who have shown very marked improvement."

About this time the mission met with a severe loss in the removal of the Messrs. Drs. Daniels, government physicians to the Dacotahs, who had co-operated with Mr. Hinman, and had been faithful friends of the Indians. Of these, Dr. Jared W. Daniels, from his knowledge of Indian character, was of great assistance to the bishop. It was a singular instance of a good man raised up and prepared for the work God had called the bishop to do. And the doctor retained to the end the warm love and confidence of the bishop.

Later in the summer the writer visited the mission and was eyewitness to the successful work. The spirit of God was evidently moving the hearts of these poor people.

A third visit was made by the bishop, Sunday, December 1, 1861. "Preached to a large congregation of Indians—the service was in Dacotah. Thomas Robertson was the interpreter, to whom we owe much for his interest in this mission, and assistance as interpreter—celebrated the Holy Communion—baptized three Indian children. Also preached at a second service to the white population. Six persons were confirmed, to whom I delivered an address. Monday was spent in examining the children in the schools, all of whom showed a good degree of improvement. The government is bound to expend six thousand dollars a year for schools among the Lower Sioux; and after eight years, I doubt if there is a single child at the Lower Agency who can read, who has not been taught by our missionary. The cost of this mission is less than seven hundred dollars a year.

"There was one marked feature of these services, that in a crowded congregation every man, woman and child was upon his knees in prayer. It is the only place where I have witnessed this in my diocese. This mission which was planted in faith almost two years ago, has overpaid me an hundred fold for all my work. The Gospel is very evidently working its way in these

hearts, and it will be to them the power of God unto salvation. In some of our converts I have witnessed a child-like faith in Christ, and a readiness to bear opposition for His sake, worthy of the early ages of the Church. We need a church for these poor people. The government has offered us the land; the gifts of friends have quarried the stone, and we hope this year will see the cross-capped turret of the first church in the Dacotah nation." (Written in June 1862, just before the outbreak.)

Under date of December 3, the bishop says: "Celebrated the Holy Communion—eight present. Oh, how blessed, a first communion with these poor heathen! I wish no greater joy to any bishop than to meet the newly converted Indian by his Lord's table."

At the Easter offering, Faribault, seventy dollars were given for a church to the Dacotahs. In his second report of his work, Mr. Hinman says: "We hope to complete our church during this summer, but we are still much straitened in our work for want of proper mission buildings." It is a modest statement of the results thus far achieved. He also speaks of the many kindnesses received from the agent and government employees during his residence on the reservation.

The last visit of Bishop Whipple before the outbreak was made early in July, 1862. July 1, 2, 3 were spent in visiting the Indians connected with the mission. On the Fourth the bishop laid the cornerstone of the church in the presence of a large congregation of Indians and persons of mixed blood, to whom he delivered an address. On the fifth he preached, and baptized three Indian women and six children. Sunday, the sixth, preached twice, confirmed six members of the mission, and celebrated the Holy Communion."

The following is a description of the laying of the cornerstone of the church. "The spot chosen is one of surpassing beauty, on a part of the eighty acres presented by the government to the mission—on either side a wild ravine made by the windings of the Minnesota; in front, a beautiful rolling prairie stretching towards the setting sun. It was a picturesque scene, as the bishop and Mr. Hinman in their vestments, with the school children, Christian Indians, and friends, walked in procession from the mission house to the spot. They were joined by twenty or thirty of the wild Indians, decked with feathers and war paint, wrapped in blankets and protecting themselves from the sun with huge fans and green boughs cut from the trees. These clustered around the bishop and Mr. Hinman as they took their stand upon the foundation of the church, and no Christian congregation could have been more attentive than were these savages during the services and the admirable address of the bishop, in which he told them how the Son of the Great Spirit came down from heaven

to die for the sins of men, of death and of the life beyond the grave."

In his convention address, 1863, the bishop says: "I had never had the opportunity to examine so thoroughly this mission as during this visit.

"There was a dark cloud lowering on the border, which, even then, filled us with fear. The medicine men, feeling their craft was in danger, excited their heathen followers to oppose the mission. Each day had its heathen dances; and, even on the Lord's Day, our services were disturbed by the discordant sounds of heathen worship. The Indians had causes of complaint against the government for violated faith. The traders had informed them that the money due to them for the sale of their lands had been taken for claims, and that one-half of their annuities had also been taken for claims. There followed on this a withdrawal of credits, and a delay of two months in the annual payment. I noticed during this visit that the wild Indians were bold and turbulent, and the fears expressed to me by the agent and others, gave me great anxiety for the fate of the mission; but no man could have foreseen so terrible a massacre. You will bear me witness, brethren, that for three years I have tried to awaken the people and their rulers to the enormities of an Indian system, which, I believed, if there was truth in history, would desolate our land with blood. I never left the Indian country with a heavier heart.

"Each day brought its new excitement. One day old 'Pappay' came to me and asked me how much money they would receive at the payment? I said \$40 each. In an hour he brought me some chiefs and said, 'Tell them how much money we shall receive at the payment. They will not believe me.'

"It was evident that some one had told the Indians that they would not receive the annual payment. Stories of robbing were rife among the Indians. They had received only worthless goods for the 800,000 acres of land sold the government in 1858. All the chiefs asked, 'Where is the money we were to receive? Perhaps the Great Father sent it, and the cars went so fast it was shaken off. We ask you to look it up.' The payment had always taken place June 20. It was now July 1. Not less than 2,000 wild Indians had come together. There had already been much turbulence at the Upper Agency, and troops had been called out to preserve the peace. In visiting the Indian camps I was startled that Indians refused to shake hands. At the Lower Agency a trader's clerk said to me, 'The payment will not take place, more than half their annuities has been taken for claims. I know the money is gone. I have told the Indians this; we refuse to trust them. They came here and threatened, but I am not afraid.' Poor fellow. Like men who live under the

shadow of a volcano, he had been lulled into security and saw no signs of the storm which would make him one of the first victims of savage fury.

"I shall never forget these days of anxiety and sorrow, when it seemed as if the very air was charged with materials for the cyclone of death, which in six weeks desolated one of the fairest countries on the face of the earth."

At length, on Monday morning, August 18, the threatened blow fell. The little church was now ready for the roofing, and the carpenters were to begin their work. Mr. Hinman was to start presently for Faribault, where Mrs. Hinman and child were on a visit, providentially, so were safe. Sounds of firing were heard; and, looking out, Mr. Hinman saw that hostilities had begun in wanton acts of violence. He exclaimed at once to Miss West to run; and immediately both started by different ways. By a long circuitous route Miss West reached the fort, twelve miles distant by the traveled road. On her way she met a party of Indians, who, from regard to her, kindly directed her where to go. While she escaped, others were cruelly murdered. Arriving at the fort, she found that Mr. Hinman, to her great joy, had preceded her.

The bishop was away on a visitation work, and first learned in St. Paul of the outbreak. Many of its victims were his personal friends.

"The only gleam of light on the darkness of this unparalleled outbreak," he says, "is, that not one of the Indians connected with our mission was concerned in it. It is due to their fidelity that the captives were saved.

"While suffering deeply, and feeling the most lively sympathy for the sufferers, I felt that it was my duty to lay the blame of this massacre at the door of the government, which had left savages without the control of law, innocent border settlers without protection, and permitted robbery and every evil influence to excite savage natures to deeds of violence and blood. There would have been a like tale of sorrow on the Chippeway border, if the plans of the guilty leaders had not been exposed by our Indian clergymen (Enmegahbowh) and Chippeway friends."

All the members of the mission escaped in safety from the Lower Sioux Agency, and at length reached Faribault.

Unfortunately, some of the Dakota pupils at Andrews' Hall, Fairibault, were at their homes, it being vacation time. A pious mother of mixed blood, with her two sons, all of them communicants, and three grown up Indian boys, with an Indian girl, had gone home to visit their friends. These were all taken prisoner, or were victims of the outbreak. There were likewise seventeen

communicants of the Dakotah Mission of St. John, who, it was thought, were massacred, or taken prisoner.

The Rev. Mr. Hinman and his associates left everything behind of their personal effects, barely escaping with their lives.

In 1885 the Rev. S. D. Hinman again visited Birch Coulee, and the following spring took up his residence there. About 1882 Good Thunder had bought eighty acres of land there, of which he gave twenty for the mission, on which, with the assistance of Bishop Whipple, Mr. Hinman built the mission house and school house in 1887. At this time there were eight houses, the Fari-bault Indians forming the nucleus of the settlement. August 27, 1889, Bishop Whipple laid the cornerstone of the church, which was completed the following year, being built, in part, of the stone of the church begun in 1862, which was removed by the Indians with their own hands. The new church was consecrated by Bishop Whipple July 16, 1891, and at the special request of the Indians was named "St. Cornelia," in grateful memory of their "white mother," as they said. March 24, 1890, the Rev. Mr. Hinman entered into rest after a short illness, and he sleeps beside the church to which so many cares and toils had been given.

For some time the mission was under the general care of the rector of Redwood Falls. During this interval Napoleon Wabasha was lay reader, also Henry W. St. Clair; and Miss Barney, and afterwards Miss Whipple, superintendents of the Sunday School.

June 25, 1899, Henry Whipple St. Clair was ordered deacon by Bishop Whipple in the church at Birch Coulee, and, after completing his studies at the Seabury Divinity School, was advanced to the priesthood by Bishop Edsall in the Church of St. Cornelia June 12, 1904. The occasion was a notable one. The Indians now were to have one of their own people to minister to them. Mrs. Bishop Whipple, the patroness of the mission, who had cared for the work since the passing of the bishop, was the guest of honor; and of the clergy there were present the Rev. E. Steele Peake, who had visited the Lower Agency in 1856, and Messrs. Tanner, Purves, Rollit, Camp, Shutt, Hills, Doffin, and the Indian clergy, Walker and Holmes of Bishop Hare's jurisdiction; members of the mission and hostesses were Susan E. Salisbury and Mary W. Whipple, Robert Heber Clarkson Hinman, teacher in the government school, and John Wakeman, or Wakinya, tanka, half brother of Little Crow, and John Crooks, the Indian scout.

The Rev. Henry W. St. Clair, priest in charge, is the son of the Rev. George St. Clair, and grandson of Job. St. Clair of Mendota, who died at Birch Coulee. The Rev. George St. Clair was admitted as a candidate for Holy Orders by Bishop Whipple December 26, 1874, ordained deacon by him June 15, 1879, entered

into rest June 10, 1881, "Indian Missionary to the Sioux Indians of Minnesota."

Bishop Whipple says in his Council Address 1882: "At my first visit to Faribault, a bright-eyed Indian boy sat on the chancel steps of the Chapel. I little thought that it would be my privilege to ordain him a minister of Christ. You who knew him will bear witness to this guileless simplicity of character, his singleness of purpose, his purity of life and earnest faith in Christ. He made full proof of his ministry, and has gone before us to the rest of the people of God."

Some of the Indians at Birch Coulee are living on the same land they occupied before the "Outbreak" in 1862. The government gave them thirty acres, more or less. The mission property consists of church, rectory, mission house and school house. Hard by the church, in the burial ground used by the Indians before the "Outbreak" of 1862, is the monument erected by Mrs. Whipple to the memory of Good Thunder, the first Sioux brave baptized by Bishop Whipple, "a loyal Indian, who saved nearly two hundred white women and children in 1862."

While on a visit to Japan Sybil Carter conceived the idea of lace-making as a branch of industry for the Indian women. After hearing what lace-making had done for the poor women of Japan, Bishop Whipple said: "It is just the thing for our Indian women. Go with me to White Earth, and, if you will teach my women there to make this lace, you shall have the hospital for headquarters for your work." Miss Carter went to White Earth with the bishop and taught the women. This was in 1886. In 1890 she went east and raised the money for a teacher, and, on her return in October, took Miss Wiswell with her for a teacher. In August, 1891, Pauline Colby was added as a teacher in the school, and in 1892 Miss Carter herself went up and remained for over a year. In August, the same year, Susan E. Salisbury, the bishop's niece, went to White Earth to assist Miss Carter. Subsequently a school was started at Red Lake, a hundred and twenty miles north of White Earth, and one at Leach Lake, ninety miles east of White Earth. There are now (1906) nine lace schools.

To bring the work more prominently before the public, Miss Carter, with Miss Salisbury, removed to St. Paul as headquarters in September, 1893. In the spring of 1894, Miss Carter closed the house in St. Paul for the summer and went to Birch Coulee, taking Miss Salisbury and Miss Barney with her. In 1897 the house in St. Paul was closed permanently, and Miss Carter removed her headquarters to New York, where she holds lace sales every year. The first bedspread made by the Indian women was for Mrs. Pierpont Morgan of New York City. Since then eight have been made. It may be mentioned as of interest that the lace made by the Indian women took the gold medal at the Paris exhibition.



It has proven, as Miss Carter said when the thought came to her, this industry has "solved the question of work for her Indian sisters."

In June, 1895, Mary Whipple went to Birch Coulee to take charge of the school; and after the house in St. Paul was closed in March, 1897, she was joined by Susan E. Salisbury. In the autumn of 1905 Miss Whipple resigned and Mrs. St. Clair, wife of the Rev. Henry St. Clair, was appointed assistant to Miss Salisbury, who has charge of the mission.

\* \* \*

Since the passing of Bishop Whipple his plans and wishes in regard to the mission at Birch Coulee have been faithfully carried out by Mrs. H. B. Whipple, who, with other substantial improvements, has built and furnished a commodious rectory, and erected a beautiful monument of Minnesota granite hard by the church in pious memory of Good Thunder, the first Sioux baptized by Bishop Whipple. In all this loving work she has had the sympathy and support of Bishop Edsall, whose election was the choice of the first bishop, as well as of the diocese, because he believed he could entrust to the loving heart of his son in the faith the care of these wards whose cause he had espoused when he came to the diocese. It would seem invidious to single out any one name from the many who have aided Bishop Whipple in this mission, to the exclusion of others who have given valuable assistance in its maintenance. For further information we refer the reader to Bishop Whipple's "Lights and Shadows of a Long Episcopate"; to "Taopi and His Friends"; to the Rev. Mr. Cook's "History of the Niobrara Mission," and to the many letters of Bishop Whipple in "The Minnesota Missionary."

**Susan Elizabeth Salisbury**, the devoted missionary at the Bishop Whipple Mission, Redwood county, was born at Adams, Jefferson county, New York, daughter of Hiram and Sarah B. Whipple Salisbury, natives of that county, and niece of the Right Rev. Henry B. Whipple, first Bishop of Minnesota. She was reared as an only child, her only sister, Frances Whipple Salisbury, having died in infancy. Early determining to devote her life to the cause of the church, Miss Salisbury finished her education at St. Mary's Hall, the school that Bishop Whipple had established at Faribault, Minnesota. In August, 1892, she went to the Chippewa Reservation at White Earth, Minnesota, to labor among the Indians there, under the auspices of the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church. At White Earth, she became the assistant in the lace-making school, which Sybil Carter, under the direction of Bishop Whipple, acting upon the inspiration received from watching Japanese women at work, had there established as the first of the nine

lace-making schools, which are now working such a revolution in the life of the Indian women, on the various reservations. In September, 1893, Miss Carter and Miss Salisbury removed to St. Paul and there established headquarters for the purpose of bringing the project of Indian lace-making prominently before the public. In the spring of 1896, the headquarters at St. Paul were permanently closed, and Miss Salisbury joined Miss Carter in New York, where Miss Carter had established headquarters. In March, 1897, Miss Salisbury came to the Bishop Whipple Mission as missionary and to assist Miss Mary W. Whipple, the Bishop's cousin, who later resigned, in the autumn of 1905, when Miss Salisbury assumed full charge of the work with Mrs. St. Clair, the wife of the Indian priest, as her assistant. This school was established January 10, 1894, and meets on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The product of this and the other eight schools consists of lace bed spreads, lace sofa pillow covers, insertions, etc. The lace bed spreads are particularly the product of the Bishop Whipple Mission, nine having been completed. Among the purchasers of these articles are such people as Mrs. Helen Gould Sheperd, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. J. P. Morgan, Mrs. Robert Winthrop and others. One of the workers made a sofa pillow cover for Queen Alexandria of England, who wrote a letter in commendation of the work. A gold medal was awarded the lace of the Indian women at the Paris Exposition.

Miss Salisbury resides at the mission and devotes all of her time to the work.

**The Rev. Henry Whipple St. Clair**, who has charge of St. Cornelia's Church, and the Bishop Henry B. Whipple Mission, is a Sioux Indian. His father, George Whipple St. Clair, was also a clergyman, ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Henry B. Whipple. He was much loved by all the Sioux, who came for miles to attend his ordination. His ministerial life was largely devoted to preaching at Faribault and in the surrounding towns, where in the early days many Indians were located. Esther Walker, wife of Rev. George Whipple St. Clair, and mother of Rev. Henry Whipple St. Clair, spent her latter years at the mission in Redwood county. She was an example for good to all the Indians at the mission, and a devoted church woman.

Rev. Henry Whipple St. Clair was educated for the ministry at the Seabury Divinity school at Faribault, Minn., having been sent there by Bishop Whipple, whose great desire was that he could give to the Indian people at Birch Coulie, a clergyman who could speak to them in their own language. He was ordained by Bishop Whipple to the diaconate June 25, 1899, and later to the priesthood by Bishop Edcall June 11, 1904. Quoting from the "Lights and Shadows of a Long Episcopate" Bishop

Whipple's book, he says, "The strongest opponent to missions would have bowed head and heart could he have looked upon the dignified thoughtful faces of that Indian congregation as they hung upon the words of the holy office, which gave them a shepherd from their own flock and their own people. For seventeen years this priest has gone in and out among these people trying to minister to them as his Bishop would have him. It has not been easy work, but daily God has given him the needed strength.

Henry Whipple St. Clair was married to Amelia Jones in Gethsemane church, Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 2, 1889, by Bishop Anson Graves. They have had thirteen children: George, Cora, Ruth, Cornelia, Gertrude, Henry, Evangeline (first), Evangeline, Reuben, Viola, Toby, Eleanor and Samuel. Evangeline (first), Gertrude and Toby are dead. Mrs. St. Clair has been a great help to Mr. St. Clair in his work and is an experienced lace-maker, having been Miss Salisbury's assistant and interpreter for many years.

**Authority.** Condensed from the article by the Rev. George C. Tanner, D. D., in the "History of the Diocese of Minnesota, 1857-1907." To this, the biographies have been added.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

### MATERIAL RESOURCES.

The excellence of this county for agriculture, and the areas of prairie and valleys of the watercourses, have been adequately treated in this work. Besides the fertility of the land, this region possesses an invigorating, healthful climate, and almost invariably good water in its wells and springs. The material resources which remain to be mentioned are water-powers, building stone, lime, clay products, gravel and mineral paint. Explorations made for coal, its mode of occurrence, and the improbability that it exists here in any valuable amount, have been spoken of in the chapter on physical features. No ores of any practical importance have been found. The principal resources of this part of the state are the products of its rich soil, and as yet, little developed water power. At one time a gold mine of considerable proportions was developed.

**Springs.** Springs of water, often impregnated with iron, occur along the ravines and valleys of many of the creeks and rivers in this region. At the southwest side of the Minnesota valley in the north part of section 30, Swedes Forest, near the west line of Redwood county, is a "boiling spring," also irony;

from which a stream three or four feet wide, and six to twelve inches deep, flows away. This is at the northwest side of a rivulet, in a ravine some fifty feet below the general level. These springs issue from the drift, and show that large water-courses exist in sand and gravel feins or strata, enclosed in the till. Such subterranean streams are often struck in wells, with the water sometimes flowing constantly through them at the bottom; but more frequently, when the outlet of the spring is distant, the water soon rises to fill the well permanently, 10, 20 or 30 feet in depth.

**Mineral Paint.** A good and durable paint was manufactured in 1868 or 1869 from ferruginous portions of the kaolinized gneiss and granite mentioned in the vicinity of Redwood Falls. The material thus used was obtained from the northwest or left bank of the Redwood river in its gorge, about a mile north of Redwood Falls, in the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 36, Delhi. Of this business Prof. N. H. Winchell wrote in his second annual report of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota, 1872-1882: "At Redwood Falls the kaolin which has resulted from the decomposition of the granitic rock, has become stained with iron, and has a brownish or greenish-brown color. It contains, generally, some silica. From this stained kaolin a good mineral paint has been manufactured. Messrs. Grant and Brusseau commenced the enterprise, and carried it far enough to demonstrate the quality of the product. The manufactured article is said to have been equal to that of Brandon, Vt., but the cost was so great that, after transportation to St. Paul, it could not be offered in the market so cheaply as the Brandon paint. Their process was very simple. The raw material was obtained from the banks of the Redwood river, and was of a rusty-brown color, having also a greenish tinge. It was broken or crushed to the fineness of corn or wheat. It was then dried in a large pan placed over a fire, and ground by water-power, between two burr-stones. In that condition it was ready for use by simply mixing with boiled or raw linseed oil . . . The color produced was reddish umber. By making some selections various lighter shades, of the same general character, were produced. It had a heavy sediment, consisting probably of iron and silica. The quality of the paint is said to have been superior to that from Ohio, and fully equal to that from Brandon, Vt. The surface of the wood painted becomes hardened and glazed, but remains smooth." A number of buildings in Redwood county were painted with this mineral paint. The paint material outcrops in various places in the valley of the Redwood and even near the mouth of that stream in the cliffs of the Minnesota river.

**Water Power.** Although the water power in this county is an important economic feature in the story of its settlement, in

that the water-power at Redwood Falls was the magnet that brought Col. Sam. McPhail to this spot in 1864, nevertheless the water power of the county has been but little developed. A. C. Burmeister built the present dam at Redwood Falls in 1902, and power secured from this dam operates his extensive electric and heating plant, as well as his mill. The power obtained by damming the Redwood river at North Redwood, is used to operate a grist mill. This is the total extent to which the water power in Redwood county is now utilized.

The tremendous fall of water on the Redwood river at Redwood Falls has been used more or less in times past. In 1855 the government established a saw mill in what is now the Redwood Falls city park. The mill was located on the southeast bank of the river, just below where the falls are now spanned by the cement bridge. Power was obtained by carrying the natural fall of the water onto an overshot waterwheel from a flume for which a space was made by blasting in the granite. This mill, though abandoned during the massacre and for a few years thereafter, was reopened in 1865 by the early settlers, and used for many years. The first log sawed after the massacre, was furnished by Birney Flynn, and was used by him for tables for a grand Fourth of July picnic, held in a grove nearby.

From the late sixties and early seventies, through the grasshopper period and well into the railroad period, waterpower sites were being utilized for four mills, three being flour mills at Redwood Falls, and one being a sawmill (later converted into a flour mill and finally into a grist mill), at North Redwood.

The Redwood Mill, operated by Worden & Ruter, is now rebuilt and remodelled as the Burmeister mill. It stands on the southeast bank of the river, a short distance northeast of the bridge. Its original dam, with a head of eighteen feet, now washed out, was built a short distance above the mill, a part of the sluice through the mill being cut from the solid rock. This mill, the first flour mill in Redwood Falls, and the county, was erected about 1868. It was in this mill that A. C. Burmeister established the dynamo which furnished Redwood Falls with its first electric current, first using the dam (now washed out) above the mill, and later the present dam above the bridge. Still later the flume was extended to the present power plant which is located on the river bank, nearly opposite the foot of Washington street.

The Delhi Mill, operated by A. A. Cook & Co., later by Baker & McMillan, and later by O. W. McMillan, was situated on the west bank of the Redwood river, just across from the foot of Third street, in Redwood Falls. The dam, which had a head of some twenty feet, and was located a few rods above the mill, opposite the foot of Fifth street, is now submerged by the back-

water of the Burmeister dam. This mill was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. It was established about 1869.

E. Cuff, about 1870, erected a flour mill some forty rods north of the present Burmeister mill, on the high south bank of the Redwood river, a few hundred feet southeast from the present residence of Orlando B. Turrell. Below the Little Falls, he built a small dam, sufficient to divert water into his flume. This flume followed the natural descent of the rapids, and the water therein thus gained in force until reaching the waterwheel, situated in the bend just before the river takes its sudden course to the north through the Ramsey state park. From this waterwheel, a pulley conveyed the power to the mill, situated high above on the south bank of the river. After being operated for a number of years as a flour and grist mill, this mill was dismantled.

In 1868-69 the Birum Brothers erected a saw mill on the present site of the Birum mills, at North Redwood, a few rods above where the river is crossed by the railroad. This was replaced by a flour mill in 1879. Of late years it has been used as a grist mill. The dam was washed away several times. The last time in the spring of 1916.

The foot of Birum's dam is thirty or forty feet above the Minnesota river, being some seventy-five feet below the general level of the prairie and town. The beauty of this deep, rock-walled gorge, about one and a half miles long, with its cascades and rapids and meandering river, can scarcely be over-stated. Its geological formations are equally interesting, by reason of their variety and uncommon character.

**Clay Products.** In 1871 an attempt was made to manufacture bricks in the town of Sherman, on the bottoms not far from the old agency. It was operated for only a few months. In the late seventies brick was made on the west bank of the Redwood river at Redwood Falls, not far above the present dam. In the early nineties, brick was made quite extensively on the bank of the Redwood river, nearly opposite the present Redwood Falls cemetery.

**Quarrying.** The gneiss and granite of the Minnesota valley at the north side of Redwood county, and of the Redwood river gorge have been but little used for quarrying purposes. In the early days stones for foundations were quarried in the gorge of the Redwood river, just below the Redwood falls. Building and foundation stones have been quarried on the Charles Fleischer farm, a half mile east of the railroad station at North Redwood. This stone, being softer than some of the other deposits in the neighborhood, is somewhat more easily worked. A harder stone has been quarried on the farm of Thomas Hoskins, at North Redwood, the quarry lying half way between the Camp Pope marker and the bridge across the Minnesota river. Quite a



large quantity of this stone has been used for paving in Minneapolis. Some is used for paving at Redwood Falls. Stone from this quarry is now polished and sold extensively for monumental and ornamental purposes. The Hoskin farm was formerly the farm of J. S. G. Honner, and his magnificent monument in the Redwood Falls cemetery is from this quarry. The boulders scattered throughout the county have been used for foundations and fence walls to some extent. Some "soap stone" has been secured near Redwood Falls.

**Gold Mine.** In the early nineties a gold mining proposition of considerable proportions was inaugurated in Swedes Forest, a mile or so northwest of the Vicksburg bridge. Options were secured on thousands of acres of land, stock was sold to the neighboring farmers, as well as in the cities, an extensive plant was erected, and considerable quartz milled and crushed. Gold was found, but not in paying quantities. For many years after the venture was abandoned, the machinery stood neglected on the spot, being partially dismantled from time to time whenever anyone who chanced to be in the vicinity needed any pieces of machinery. Finally the machinery that remained was taken down and removed, and only the remains of the plant, the crushed quartz and the hole in the rock now exist to mark the spot of this venture, which once inspired such high hopes.

**Gravel.** There are pockets of gravel in various parts of the county. One of the largest gravel pits is situated half way between Redwood Falls and North Redwood on the west side of the road. The gravel of the county is used in making roads, and has also been used in various places in the county for making cement tile and cement blocks.

**Wells.** The wells of Redwood county are of three varieties: (1) The so-called surface-wells, which extend only into the drift; (2) the wells which extend into the Cretaceous strata underlying the drift; (3) the wells which extend into the archaean rocks, that is into the basal rocks of gneiss and granite.

**Surface Wells.** The surface deposits of Redwood county consist of glacial drift and revent alluvium. The drift occurs everywhere except in small areas in the Minnesota valley, in the valley of the Redwood river below the falls, and in Granite Rock township, where older rock formations are exposed. Over most of the eastern, central and southwestern parts of the county, it is between 100 and 200 feet thick, and in places it reaches a still greater thickness. In the northwestern part it is generally thinner, being less than fifty feet thick throughout a large portion of the following townships: Vail (township 111, range 37), Granite Rock (111-38), Westline (111-39), Sheridan (112-37), Vesta (112-38), and Underwood (112-39). Where the drift has considerable thickness it generally includes deposits of sand and



gravel that will produce water supplies adequate for all ordinary purposes, but where it is less than 100 feet it may not contain a reliable water-bearing bed. In the northwestern part of the county, especially in the townships just mentioned, the drift is not an entirely satisfactory source of supply, although on a large portion of these townships it is the only available source. The water from the glacial drift is generally under considerable pressure, but it is not known to rise above the surface. The flowing wells in the southwest are supposed to be supplied from the Cretaceous rocks, but no record could be obtained of most of them, and it is possible that some end in the drift. Many springs issue from the sides of the Minnesota valley, and these have lowered the head of the water beneath the adjacent uplands. The analyses of the water from the surface wells reveal a wide range in the mineral composition of the water.

**Cretaceous Wells.** Throughout most of this county, Cretaceous strata lie beneath the drift. In the southwest they have a thickness of several hundred feet, but they thin out toward the east and north. They occur everywhere in the southern tier of townships and almost everywhere in the tier next north. They are also found adjacent to Lyon county nearly or quite to the north boundary but are absent in the vicinity of Vesta and Seaforth and in much of the northwestern part of the county. Small and irregularly distributed areas containing thin deposits of this age are concealed below the drift in the northeastern part, but the accurate mapping of these patches can not be accomplished until many more well sections are available than at present.

The following specific data bear on the occurrence of the Cretaceous in this county: (1) At Tracy, one mile west of the county line, a series of Cretaceous shales and sandstones about 450 feet thick, has been penetrated. (2) At Walnut Grove there is a considerable thickness of the same series, but no definite section is available. (3) Near Pell Creek, along the road from Revere to Lamberton, Cretaceous clay and sandstone come to the surface, and in the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 11, T. 109 N., R. 38 W., shale was struck at a depth of 110 feet. (4) At Lamberton an 80-foot stratum of shale was reached at a little more than 200 feet below the surface. (5) In Sanborn a sandstone and shale series was entered at a depth of 217 feet and was penetrated for fifty-three feet. (6) A few miles east of Sanborn, along Cottonwood river, Cretaceous outcrops are found. (It seems probable that the deposits of Cretaceous clay, sandstone, etc., exposed in the outcrops lie above the thicker shale beds encountered in drilling and are not generally differentiated from the drift in well sections.) (7) Near Cottonwood river, south of Milroy, a number of deep wells have been sunk and shale and sandstone about 400 feet in thickness have been penetrated by the drill. (8) In

the village of Milroy shale is encountered at a depth of only thirty-five feet, and it seems to have been penetrated for about 230 feet. (9) In the southwestern corner of Underwood township (T. 112 N., R. 39 W.), a 75-foot stratum of blue shale, underlain by white sand, was reached forty-five feet below the surface. (10) One mile west of Lucan, on the farm of Patrick Curtin, N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 20, T. 111 N., R. 38 W., shale was found at a depth of seventy feet. (11) At Clements the same material was struck at 115 feet, and was penetrated only a short distance. (12) In the valley of Redwood river below the falls and in the Minnesota valley between Redwood Falls and Morton, outcrops of thin Cretaceous strata are found. (13) In the northern part of the county shale has been encountered in drilling. There are two phases of the Cretaceous in this region. One phase, which consists of rapidly alternating and imperfectly assorted strata of clay, sand, sandstone, etc. indicates by the rude stratification the cross-bedding of the sandstone, the red oxidized character of much of the clay, the lignite beds, the fossil leaves, and other features that the conditions of deposition were nonmarine or littoral. The other phase consists for the most part of a thoroughly assorted series of soft shale and sandstone, the shale greatly predominating and having a characteristic gray-blue color. It attains a maximum thickness in this state of at least 500 feet, and was evidently laid down in a large and quiet body of water, where thorough assortment and stratification were possible. It is to be correlated with the Cretaceous in South Dakota and other western states. These two phases are described in the reports on Brown and Lyon counties where they are respectively best developed. Their exact relation to each other has not been determined. The series in the western and southern parts of Redwood county belongs to the Lyon county phase, and the rocks in the northeastern part belong with those in Brown county. Where the Cretaceous is several hundred feet thick it will yield moderately large quantities of water, as is illustrated by the 6-inch city well at Tracy, which is pumped at the rate of fifty gallons a minute, and by the 6-inch village well at Walnut Grove, which is pumped at the rate of thirty-five gallons a minute. In general it may be said that in the vicinity of Milroy and thence southward and south-eastward to Walnut Grove and Revere the Cretaceous can be depended on for adequate supplies, but that northeast of Lamberton and Lucan it is generally absent or devoid of any good water-bearing stratum, though in a few localities it will furnish some water. The Cretaceous area of flowing wells projects from Lyon county into the southwestern part of this county. The southwestern margin of the area enters the county about four miles north of the southern boundary and thence passes to Walnut Grove and approximately to the Cottonwood county line. It

enters the county between the 1,200-foot and 1,300-foot contours and gradually descends until it nearly coincides with the latter. The northeastern margin enters the county about three miles north of Cottonwood river and for some distance runs roughly parallel to that stream, but eventually crosses it and passes southward to Revere, where there are several flowing wells. The northeastern margin is determined to a great degree by the thinning out of the Cretaceous and the consequent failure of the deep artesian beds. However, throughout the flowing area the head is not great and the natural flow never exceeds a few gallons a minute. Moreover, immediately outside of this area there are wells in which the water rises nearly to the surface. Thus in the Cretaceous wells at Walnut Grove it fails only by a few feet to reach the top, and in the similar wells at Milroy it comes within fifteen to twenty feet of the top.

The Sioux quartzite, which attains a relatively great thickness farther south, projects into the southern part of Redwood county, in the form of a wedge between the Cretaceous and the granite. At Lamberton it is reported to have a thickness of several hundred feet. It is probably of no economic value in this county as a source of water.

**Archean Wells.** The Archean consists of granite and gneiss, which constitute the basal rocks. Throughout the northern and eastern parts of the county it is everywhere relatively near the surface. In the vicinity of Seaforth three outcrops are known, and there are several others in Yellow Medicine county, within a mile or two of the boundary line; it is frequently encountered in drilling in this region. Moreover, in the Minnesota valley, and in the Redwood valley, both above and below the falls it is exposed. In the southern part of the county, however, the granitic surface descends and within a short distance is many hundreds of feet below the surface. Thus at Tracy, Lyon county, it occurs at a depth of a little more than 600 feet, or not quite 800 feet above sea level, and at Lamberton it was reported about 600 feet below the surface, or only 550 feet above the sea.

Farther south it lies at so great a depth that it is very seldom reached by the drill. At Blue Earth, Faribault county, and at Sioux City, Iowa, it was struck at a level of 135 feet below the sea, and at Lemars, Iowa, at 215 feet above the sea.

The upper part is generally much altered and passes gradually into the unchanged granite. This decomposed mantle is best exposed in the gorge of Redwood river below the falls, where it has been described by Prof. N. H. Winchell, but the same kind of material is encountered in many of the wells of the region. Drillers do not always differentiate clearly between the Cretaceous beds and the rotted granite, though it is of great practical importance that the distinction be made. Brilliant colors

(red, yellow, green, white, etc.), flakes of mica or steatite which give the drillings a silvery appearance not possessed by the Cretaceous shale ("soapstone"), transparent and angular grains of quartz, which give a gritty character never found in the shale, and hard quartzose ("glassy") layers alternating with soft material, all indicate that the granite residuum has been reached.

Material from an outcrop near Morton, in Renville county, is described as follows by N. H. Winchell: "A substance was met here for the first time which was afterward seen at a number of places. Its origin seems to be dependent upon the granite. Its association is so close that it seems to be the result of a change in the granite itself. It lies first under the drift, or under the Cretaceous rocks, where they overlie the granite, and passes by slow changes into the granite. It has some of the characters of steatite and some of those of kaolin. In some places it seems to be a true kaolin. It is known by the people as "Castile soap." It cuts like soap, has a blue color when fresh or kept wet, but a faded and yellowish ash color when weathered, and when long and perfectly weathered is white and glistening. The boys cut it into the shapes of pipes and various toys. It appears like the pipestone, though less heavy and less hard, and has a very different color. It is said to harden by heating. This substance, which may, at least provisionally, be denominated a kaolin, seems to be the result of the action of water on the underlying granite. Since it prevails in the Cretaceous areas, and is always present, so far as known, whenever the Cretaceous deposits have preserved it from disruption by the glacier period, it may be attributed to the action of the Cretaceous ocean. In some places it is gritty, and in others it may be completely pulverized in the fingers. A great abundance of this material exists in the banks of the Birch Coolie, within a short distance of its mouth."

Since the above statements were made, this clay, which is commonly whiter and less ferruginous than the sample described, has been found in scores of deep wells, and thus much additional evidence has been obtained as to its distribution and character. All this new evidence, however, corroborates Winchell's statements that it overlies the granite, into which it passes by slow changes, and that it prevails in the Cretaceous areas and is generally present wherever the Cretaceous deposits have preserved it. A conception of its wide distribution can be gained by referring to the reports of the counties in which the Archean lies beneath the Cretaceous. In this county it is exposed in the valleys of Minnesota and Redwood rivers and has frequently been reached in drilling, especially in the vicinity of Vesta and Seaforth, where it is near the surface.

In the gorge of Redwood river decomposed granite occurs

which has a matrix of white clay very similar to the white clay under discussion, except that it is less compact. In this matrix are imbedded the angular, transparent grains of quartz which existed in the mother rock. It is the thoroughly weathered and leached granitic residuum left in its original position. On the south side of the wagon road from Redwood Falls to Morton, where the descent is made from the upland into the valley, there is a typical exposure of the white clay. It is here evidently of sedimentary origin, as it is free from quartz grains and lies above a stratified layer of grit. The outcrop appears nearly white. Two samples, one from each of the above described exposures, were analyzed for the United States Geological Survey, by Prof. F. F. Grout, of the University of Minnesota.

The analyses show that the composition of the white clay is similar to that of the granitic residuum, and that both are similar to kaolin. It will be seen, however, that the white clay and, to a less extent, the residuum are a little higher in alumina and a little lower in silica than kaolin, as a result, according to Professor Grout, of the presence of small amounts of beauxite. The white color is due to the fact that the iron has nearly all been leached out.

Well sections and outcrops show that in some places the white clay contains imbedded grains of quartz and is clearly residual, as in the exposure in the Redwood gorge; that in others it is entirely free from grit but includes interbedded strata of sand, as in the Tracy well, the exposure near Morton, etc., and that in still others quartz grains are present in the lower part and absent in the upper, as in many wells in Renville county. In brief, the white clay consists in part of granitic residuum, and in part of sedimentary deposits derived therefrom. Essentially this conclusion has been reached by Warren Upham and others.

It is important that drillers should distinguish this clay both from the ordinary Cretaceous shale and from the ordinary decomposed granite, because its significance as to water supplies is somewhat different from that of either. It does not usually yield water, but the interbedded layers of grit, where they occur, may furnish adequate supplies. A number of good wells draw from this source, but there are also many instances on record where drilling into the clay has resulted in failure. The white clay is always a warning that the drill is approaching granite.

**Public Water Supplies.** There are public water supplies in Redwood Falls, Vesta, Morgan, Wabasso, Wanda, Lamberton, Walnut Grove, Sanborn, Lucan and Milroy. There are none in Belview, Delhi, Revere, Clements, Seaforth Rowena and North Redwood.

**Farm Water Supplies.** Drilled wells are most numerous in the flowing area and adjacent parts, that is, in the southwestern

portion of the county, where the Cretaceous is a sure source of supply. They have an advantage over the shallower-bored wells in that they can be sunk to beds which in most of this area will yield flows of soft water. Flowing wells, those that end in sandstone and those that are four inches or more in diameter, are generally finished with open ends, but others must be provided with screens to keep out the sand. Where the water is truly soft the screens will give no trouble, but where it is hard they become incrustated in a few years by the precipitation of calcium carbonate and other mineral matter.

In the area northeast of a line drawn through Lamberton and Lucan (including by far the greater part of Redwood county) bored and dug wells greatly predominate. As the depth to the impervious formations in this area averages probably not more than 200 feet and is locally much less, it is necessary to procure water relatively near the surface; and as larger supplies can be developed from weak zones by means of bored or dug wells than by means of the ordinary drilled wells there is reason for preferring the former type.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

### PIONEER EXPERIENCES.

**McPhail—His Life, Times and Cabin.** The starting of a town usually differs but slightly one from another in the details of its procedure, but the beginning of Redwood Falls was sufficiently unique, so unlike in circumstances to other ventures of its kind and so closely associated with adventurous and dramatic occurrences and with the history and development of the upper Minnesota valley, that any record or relic of the story of its earliest days cannot fail to be of unusual interest.

At this time when so many modern residences have been completed, with conveniences and materials from many factories and other sources widely distributed, a very marked contrast is presented by the removal to Ramsey park of the first log house built in Redwood Falls, fifty-two years ago, constructed by crude means, of cruder materials, this being the first procedure in establishing the first settlement above New Ulm in the region devastated by the greatest slaughter of civilians ever perpetrated on the North American continent, the Indian massacre of 1862.

This building was constructed by Col. Sam McPhail, in the summer of 1864, at the time when he secured the site on which he platted the new town of Redwood Falls. This, with others of a small group of buildings, was protected from attacks from

Indians by a substantially built stockade of prairie sod, while a series of military camps provided a daily patrol of mounted soldiers along the frontier and a night watch sentinel was maintained as further precaution against surprise attacks.

The McPhail cabin was built of logs taken from an abandoned Indian house situated near the Sioux Agency headquarters, and there is some probability that this was the earliest boyhood home of Dr. Chas. A. Eastman, the Indian author and lecturer, which was located at about the same place. It was erected at the center of what was afterwards, and is now, the original plat of Redwood Falls, on a rise of ground gently sloping in all directions from the site of the cabin, which stood next to the alley, facing south, immediately in the rear of the present Palace Dry Goods store and this cabin served the purpose of securing a squatter's right to the future townsite tract. One feature of its construction, which probably was the only instance of its kind, was an inside wall of brick, which made it a safer protection from hostilities. The supply of brick was from a government brickyard in operation before the outbreak.

Col. McPhail began locating claims for landseekers in 1863, but the first group of families arrived in 1864, when other houses and the stockade was built and rooms were added to three sides of the cabin. The only person now living who assisted McPhail with his cabin and in the building of the stockade, is Wm. Post, who occasionally still comes to Redwood Falls. Marion Johnson is the only resident who came to Redwood Falls during the first year of 1864 and he and his brother were the first to risk living outside the protection of the stockade.

In the spring of 1865 this building had been enlarged to a six-room house, occupied by three families, one of them being that of Dr. D. L. Hitchcock.

During the previous winter, a teacher was employed by Col. McPhail, who also supplied the schoolroom for the few children of the stockade, including his own. Grant Martin and Elizabeth Hitchcock, still residents of the town, were born in the stockade.

McPhail also built the first frame residence of the town, outside the stockade, near the falls, which location still remains the most picturesque residence property of the town, owned now by Julius Melges. This building was removed in later years and is now a part of the Glasco cottage on the west side of the entrance to Redwood Falls park.

The stockade building was next occupied by the family of Wm. Mills, who supplied lodging accommodations to transient travelers. Mills had been mail carrier and tavern keeper at Fort Ridgely before the outbreak and according to a story of incidents previous to the siege of Fort Ridgely, he was the means of sav-



ing the garrison at that place from complete annihilation by a timely warning of plans by the Indians which could have been easily executed had no warning been given.

The ownership of the lot on which this building stood passed later to Mr. Traugott Henze, and his family occupied it until Mr. Henze moved the original cabin part to his farm by the Minnesota river in Honnor township. Here it was occupied first by his son Richard, then continuously used as a farm building until Richard Henze presented it to Joe Tyson to be removed to the Ramsey state park.

The story of this primitive structure would be incomplete without more extended reference to the picturesque personality of its first owner, the proprietor of the original townsite and general manager of Redwood Falls, whose varied and aggressive part in its early affairs were indelibly fixed in the memory of every resident of that period. McPhail was a real Kentucky colonel, or rather a real colonel from Kentucky, where he was born. He received training in a southern military school and served as a soldier in the Mexican War. Following this, as a surveyor, he assisted in establishing the boundary line between Iowa and Minnesota which brought him into this state. He had already started two Minnesota towns, Caledonia and Brownsville, previous to his enlistment in a regiment across the border in Wisconsin, under Major Powell. McPhail was also one of the first townsite owners of Beaver Falls.

He was an army officer in the Indian campaign of 1862 which brought him to Redwood, and as he stood on the banks of the river, overlooking the falls and the government sawmill, he told a comrade that at the first opportunity he would establish a town at this point.

As a literary and advertising man he was the first editor of the first newspaper, the Redwood Falls Patriot; as a good roads man he was appointed by the first board of county commissioners as the first road overseer of the county; as a financier he was authorized by this same board to supply funds for maintaining the first county government before it had income from first taxes and when its only financial resources were promises to pay; as a humorist he was a continuous entertainer to his acquaintances; as a Fourth of July orator he was always a main feature of this annual festival; as a military man he attained the position and salary of a commissioned officer for two years after every other officer and private of his regiment had been mustered out of service; as one of the widely known Minnesota men he was appointed by Governor Marshall to distribute government rations to needy frontier settlers and Redwood Falls received its allotment of beans and hard tack during a serious scarcity of food; as a surveyor and frontiersman he heeded the call

to a farther frontier and removed to the prairies nearer the Dakota line and located many of the earliest settlers in Lyon and Lincoln counties, and as a lawyer and politician he was the first county attorney of Redwood and later was chosen by the voters to the same position in Lyon county.

The first building of the McPhail cabin, re-erected where the two park streams meet, marked the time when the whites first took possession of these reservation lands which up to that date had been in undisputed ownership and occupancy of the aboriginal Americans.

Here, it may be predicted, this relic and reminder of the early days, which has in turn served the purposes of an Indian house, a pioneer's cabin, military headquarters, the first school-house and hotel, the first doctor's office and medicine supply house, town residence and farm building, will now stand for many years with its latch string out in welcome to any sojourner in these parts, as typical of the hospitality of log cabin days and with the genial Joe, representing the state of Minnesota, as chief host.—(By H. M. Hitchcock.)

**The Frederick Holt Family.** After serving through the Civil War in Co. E, 22nd Ind. Vol. Inf., Frederick Holt came to Northfield, Minn., with Fred Steineamp, Herman Hackmann and Heinrich Schafer, young men he had known in Indiana before the war. From Northfield they came to Redwood Falls in 1867, and here Mr. Holt bought 160 acres of reservation land on section 26, in what is now Swedes Forest township. This tract had meadow land, timber and running water, advantages which caused him to locate in Redwood county rather than on the open prairie of Renville county, where his friends took up homesteads. That year he returned to Northfield, and remained there until the spring of 1869, when he married Henrietta Moeller, a widow with three small children, the oldest not yet seven years of age.

Mrs. Holt is still living in the county and is one of its most honored and respected pioneers. After recounting the facts given above, Mrs. Holt, in speaking of pioneer times says:

"After our marriage we at once made preparations to move to Redwood county. We were soon ready, and left Northfield the last week in May, all our possessions in a prairie schooner, drawn by a yoke of oxen. We came through Dundas, St. Peter, New Ulm and Sleepy Eye and made the trip in a week. We carried a stove with us and at meal time would set it up to bake biscuits and cook coffee. One day on the journey I baked bread. At night we slept in the schooner except once when we were near St. Peter, a farmer's wife took us in. It was raining and she gave us supper and had us sleep in the house. It rained so much and the roads were so bad that we often got stuck and then we would have to unload our things and get out of the mudhole

as best we could. The latter part of the journey we came along the old government stage road and arrived on our land on the second of June, 1869. Redwood was a beautiful country then, with its miles upon miles of untouched prairie lands and the grass taller than the backs of our oxen on every side of us. Mr. Holt's friends came over from Renville county and helped him cut down trees and build our log cabin. They put it up in a week.

"That first summer we raised potatoes, pumpkins and rutabagas on breaking, but no grain, so Mr. Holt drove back to Northfield to work in the harvest fields, leaving me and the children to look after our place. He brought back a milch cow he earned while there, and at St. Peter he bought enough rough unplanned six-inch boards to put floors upstairs and down in our little cabin. In the fall of that same year he made a trip to New Ulm for a load of wheat, which he had ground into flour at the old Rieke mill down near Franklin. During the first years we lived here our wheat had to be hauled to Sleepy Eye or to the equally distant Wilmar. From the latter town we hauled lumber to put up a frame house. A few times we took our grain to North Redwood and loaded it on a steamboat which came up from St. Peter, when the river was high enough.

"When we came here we had as neighbors, two Swede brothers, bachelors, Peter and Nels Swenson. Their land joined ours and from its heavily wooded timber the township was later named. There were also Indians encamped in these woods, eight or ten tepees of them. We had raised so bountiful a crop of pumpkins and rutabagas that we told the Indians to help themselves. They put pieces of pumpkin on sharp sticks, roasted them over the fire and ate them with much relish. They asked for potatoes and an Indian brought me several rabbits and prairie chickens in return. Once when I was sick, two Indian women came to see me; they shook hands with me and said, 'Squaw sick, squaw sick!' Often I would see an Indian dragging a deer over the snow to the camp. It was not uncommon in those early years to see herds of eight or ten wild deer roaming about. These Indians remained in our woods for two years, then they moved to lower Rice creek, and later to the Agency. We never had any trouble with them whatever. My children visited their encampment. They often asked for things, especially if they were hungry, but I do not recall that they ever stole anything.

"When Swedes Forest township was organized, it included Kintire and part of Delhi. Mr. Holt was chairman of the board of supervisors for several years. He also helped organize school districts No. 10 and 55, and served a good many years on the schoolboard. He was a charter member of the German Methodist Episcopal church in Flora, Renville county, and a trustee

of that church from the time it was established until his death. Together we fought fires in those dry early seventies and grasshoppers afterward. Over and above it all we saw a wilderness peopled, a fair country grow more fair.

"To furnish the cabin, besides the stove already mentioned, we bought in Northfield, a table, a bedstead and two or three chairs; and we made some benches and a bed for the children and put up a row of shelves in one corner of the cabin, which covered by a calico curtain, served as a general cupboard.

"As for clothing, I had some good worsted dresses, brought over from Germany, both for myself and the children. At Northfield I bought some calico for myself and German print for the little ones. I spun the wool and knitted the stockings and mittens we needed, and made the underwear from flannel or muslin, as the season required. The children went barefoot in summer.

"We brought with us some tea, coffee, flour, a ham and some live chickens. In the fall we got a milch cow. Soon we bought a few pigs and later two sheep. There was an abundance of wild fruit and hazlenuts in the woods, and plenty of game. The river was near for fishing. Old settlers had told us about using prairie tea, and finding it grew here we picked and dried the leaves and made the tea by pouring boiling water on them. I rather liked the taste of it. For coffee we roasted wheat or barley. The price of tea and coffee was almost prohibitive, but butter and eggs were very cheap, at least in summer. In the fall we would make pumpkin butter, without sugar. Mr. Holt had seen the Indiana settlers make it that way. In the late fall when we took a load of wheat to the mill for our winter's supply of flour, there was always a sack of well-dried shelled corn along so that we had corn bread and mush and milk to vary our fare. Then, too, we always had a good garden. I do not recall that we ever went hungry.

"Our cabin was right in the woods and so protected that we had less to endure either from the severe storms or the prolonged cold than the prairie settlers. I do not remember that the blackbirds did us any especial damage. The mosquitoes were so thick at times, especially in the tall grass, you had to keep your mouth shut. We covered the windows with netting and built a smudge at dusk right near the door to keep them away."

**Marion Johnson's Experiences.** George Johnson and his son Marion, then a youth of fifteen years, arrived at the stockade in October, 1864, spent the first night in the stockade and then moved into an Indian hewed-log house, on the south shore of Tiger lake. This lake was so named from the fact that before the massacre the steamboat "Tiger," during the high water, had gotten out of the channel of the Minnesota river into this lake, and being unable to again reach the Minnesota, was beached

on the shore. The Johnsons came from LeSeuer county, they brought a pair of horses, a wagon, some household furniture and some provisions.

While the winter was hard, the man and boy were quite comfortable. The Indian cabin was snug and warm, having been well built by the government, with a good door and window. Their provisions consisted of flour, pork and tea, though the tea was used exclusively by the man. In the fall prairie chicken were plentiful. In the winter, deer and coon provided plenty of fresh meat. A deer was killed about once in two weeks and hung up in a tree, where it froze solid, and was thus preserved in the best condition for use. A maple tree felled in the yard provided more than four cords of wood, a great convenience during those weeks where the thermometer reached forty degrees below zero, and the snow lay four feet deep on the surface. Sometimes the winter was warm enough so that the man and boy could get out a few logs on the river bottoms. The horses were well cared for in a snug shed.

A dog furnished companionship and was also of much assistance. Marion Johnson tells, with great glee, of the day when the dog assisted in a fish hunt. The lake at that time was filled with pickerel and pike. So thickly was the ice frozen that the fish were in danger of extermination by suffocation. A bubbling spring beneath the water, however, kept the ice open at one point of the lake near a steep bank.

One morning the attention of Marion Johnson was attracted by the barking of the dog, greatly excited over the masses of fish in this open hole, where they had swarmed to get air. Cold as it was, the boy, after calling to his father, jumped into the water and began throwing the fish on to the bank, where his father quickly dispatched them. In this way several bushels of good food were secured and the open water at that spot became a source of constant fish supply throughout the winter. Thus, with many hardships, but with many interesting adventures as well, the winter was spent. In the spring the family arrived, consisted of two sons, Harris and James, Mahala, Eva and Delma. The male members of the family at once proceeded with farming operations and that year got in five acres of oats, five acres of corn, fifteen or sixteen acres of wheat, quite a few potatoes and a good garden. Somewhat more fortunate than many of the other pioneers, Mr. Johnson had some forty head of stock, including six yoke of oxen. His farming equipment consisted of a breaking plow, a stubble plow, a home-made "V" harrow, and the necessary hoes, shovels, and axes. He was fortunate in having had some of his land broken by the Indians. It was impossible to raise wheat the first year after breaking, the usual procedure being to break the land and then to raise

potatos, rutabagas, or sod corn the first year. The procedure of planting potatoes and rutabagas was to place them in the furrow and to turn the sod of the next furrow over on them, which made digging them in the fall a long and laborious progress, but which affectively prepared the land for a wheat crop the next year.

In the early days the principal drawback were the cranes and blackbirds. Even as early as the late sixties the grasshoppers began to put in their appearance but not in such numbers as in 1873, when they almost entirely destroyed the crops.

During his boyhood days Mr. Johnson at one time entered the employ of Maj. Joseph R. Brown, who had a government contract to deliver provisions to Fort Wadsworth, which has since become Sisseton. A large number of soldiers were then located at the fort and camp provisions were brought to Redwood by boat and taken across the rest of the distance by ox trains, about two hundred teams usually being used in a train. The entire company was subject to military organization and supplied with scouts by the government. After the Dakota line was crossed and the region of the Kota hills entered this escort of the soldiers was very necessary, as there were still many hostile Indians in that section.

The trip was a tremendous undertaking considering there were no "good roads" and no bridges, every stream having to be forded, and sometimes wagons, teams and men swam the streams. Major Brown, who held the contract for the delivery of the goods, was the founder and sponsor of the present city of Brown's Valley.

Another vivid recollection of Mr. Johnson's is the grasshopper plague, which struck the country in 1865, and didn't entirely disappear until 1877, twelve long years when it took superhuman pluck to hang on, and the settlers would have starved utterly had it not been for the abundance of game. As it was, many of them moved away, and it took those who remained years to recover from the onslaught of the pests.

During this period, when starvation stared the pioneers straight between the eyes, Marion Johnson and his brother, two years younger, were sent by their father to Olmstead county, where crops were good, there were no grasshoppers and plenty of work. Upon their departure, the father gave each boy fifty cents, telling them to seek food and shelter from the farmers along the route. It speaks well for the humanity of these same farmers that the boys, when they reached Rochester each had a dollar and a half. Every one had helped, giving them lodging and food and occasionally small pieces of money.

The entire trip, one hundred and fifty miles, was made by the boys afoot; and barefoot at that. Mr. Johnson still speaks of

the stone bruise he acquired while en route, and the peculiar gait he acquired because of it.

At Rochester they attended P. T. Barnum's circus, which was exhibiting there that day, which only goes to prove that boy-nature is boy-nature, fifty years ago, today and forever! This was the first circus they had ever seen and the best they have ever seen.

After the season's work the boys stayed with the same farmer until frost made further work impracticable, when they returned home each the possessor of five dollars given him by their employer in addition to the summer's wages, which must necessarily be given to the support of the family. "I shall never forget those people and how kind they were to us," said Mr. Johnson, looking backward down the avenue of years, with a look that proved that no time can deaden the memory of a friend.

The game fifty years ago was a source of income as well as the basis of the food supply. Some buffalo were still to be found and there was an abundance of the small fur-bearing animals. Mr. Johnson has upon several occasions earned an income of eighty dollars per month from his traps. The occupation had one serious drawback: it necessitated early rising to get to the traps before the silent Redskin made them an early morning visit.

**Mr. and Mrs. Ferris**, who have been residents of Redwood Falls since 1876, have a store of delightful tales of the early days of Redwood Falls and vicinity.

In the year mentioned, Mr. and Mrs. Ferris made the trip from a Wisconsin town, ten miles southwest of Madison, to Redwood Falls, in a covered wagon, bringing with them their son, of three years, and their daughter of two months. The trip took three weeks, and during that time the family slept in the wagon every night except the last, when they stopped at the home of a farmer. However, the wagon was a large roomy one of the platform type and more comfortable than many used.

Just how valuable such a wagon and horses were in those days is shown by the fact that Mr. Ferris later traded the outfit for a hundred and twenty acres of land, which now lies in about the center of the Gilfillan farm. This land Mr. Ferris afterwards traded for land nearer Redwood Falls.

Two years after the arrival of the Ferris family the North Western railway was built to Redwood Falls. That spring looking from the windows of her home, Mrs. Ferris could see thirty-six new houses in process of building and scarcely a tree in sight; nothing but flat rolling prairies everywhere.

In the winter of 1880, the family moved to the W. Baker farm, south of what is now the Winn farm. During this winter Mrs.



Ferris saw no other woman from December until March, when Mr. and Mrs. Jones, then living on the Winn farm, drove across the fields for a visit. This was an exceedingly cold winter with an abundance of snow and traffic was almost impossible. About once in two weeks Mr. Baker sent a man to the farm with mail and provisions, and this was practically the only means of communication with the outside world. The rural telephone service was even less efficient in those days than it is today.

The good roads of Redwood county may be directly traced to the activities of Mr. Ferris, who was the first street commissioner, and is directly responsible for the graveling of Bridge, Mill and Main streets, doing most of the actual work himself. Mr. Ferris has always been connected with the best interests of the city and is at present one of the strong members of a strong council. With Mrs. Ferris he has always been identified with all movements that tended toward the uplift of the city and its people.

**James Aiken's Reminiscences.** "My first acquaintance with Redwood Falls was formed about the first of May, 1880, two years after the North Western railroad was built into that town. My mother and myself put up at the Commercial hotel, occupying the same location as the McAllister, the old hotel having gone up in smoke many years ago. Mr. Bunce, father of George and Ed. Bunce, was the landlord, but was succeeded not long afterward by the late H. D. Everett, father of our present county treasurer. There were no business houses fronting on Washington street at that time, to the best of my recollections, except the blacksmith shop of Fred Hotchkiss, a livery barn south of the hotel, and Capt. Dunington's United States land office, a one-story frame shack, near the site of the present Asleson store. The Gazette building of that period was on the present Fred Thompson block corner, and was so open to winter's blasts that the office was removed that fall to the second floor of a frame block of two stores on Mill street (opposite the present Japs garage), which also went up in smoke many years ago, but long after the first-mentioned Gazette building had been removed to Third street, opposite the present Kumm block, had been converted first into a photo studio for N. B. Anderson, and later into ashes. I think at the time of the Commercial hotel fire.

"The winter of 1880-1881 was of a character so unique that I assume that it will be adequately described by some of your local pioneers, in detail. To have mails as well as all freight and express matter come at intervals of six weeks or so, was only one of the many extraordinary phenomena of that wonderful winter of snow blockades. I would rather take up the rest of my allotted space with more or less at random notes about the men and women, who, in Redwood Falls, dominated the busi-

ness and social life of the period between the years 1880 and 1890.

"A group of the personalities that most strongly impressed me at that time, would include H. D. Chollar, a man of energy and ability, whose tragic death by a fall from the eastern approach of the Redwood bridge to the rocks below, while leaning over the cliff to inspect the effect of a threshing separator passing over the bridge, was a decided loss to the progressive element of Redwood Falls. Mr. Chollar was mayor of our little city at the time of his death in 1888, or 1889 I think, and his widow, the late Mrs. Ella Chollar, was one of the lovely women of the Redwood Falls of that period.

"Mr. and Mrs. James McMillan constituted another couple who ranked as business and social favorites in the period I am trying to recall. 'Jim' McMillan was the owner of the pioneer Redwood Falls store, a genial and popular man. Mr. McMillan died prior to 1890, I think, but Mrs. McMillan disseminated sunshine and good deeds for quite a number of years later.

"W. P. and James Dunnington were prominent to some extent, during this decade, the former first as register of the United States land office for a time, and a local political leader, while J. M. continued in the grocery business from 1880 until comparatively recent years. The brothers were quite different in their outward characteristics, but alike in kindly traits as well as in certain combative tendencies. J. M. was best known to me, and I shall always cherish his memory as a loyal, kind-hearted friend and neighbor.

"Other business men of that period were: Philbrick, Francois, King Bros. and Robt. Wilson, in the dry goods line; McKay and Race Lechner, and Ackmann, grocers; Dr. Hitchcock and Son, and C. C. Peck, druggists; Laird and Dornberg and E. A. Chandler, hardware dealers; H. N. Bell, furniture; Geo. Drake, and Leo Truesdell, harness makers. In the banking line W. F. Dickinson and G. W. Braley divided the business up to the time of the death of the latter, after which Clarence Ward and H. D. Baldwin organized the Redwood County Bank, and later O. B. Turrell and associates organized the Citizens Bank. Aune and Ringdahl also opened their clothing store during this period, Mr. Thune succeeding Ringdahl a year or two later. Early in the eighties, C. W. George succeeded G. Bohn in the lumber and grain business, as a competitor to the Laird-Norton yards, managed by Mr. Chollar up to the time of his demise. Other old-timers like the Tenney Bros., Geo. Crooks and Bishop Gordon, belong to the period antedating the eighties, rather than to the time I am trying to recall.

"The legal profession in 1880 included H. D. Baldwin, Alfred Wallin, Frank L. Morrill and J. H. Bowers. Judge Baldwin be-

came district judge by appointment of the governor in 1880 or 1881, and Mr. Wallin, after an ineffectual canvass for the same position at the subsequent election, when Judge Webber of New Ulm begun his long judicial career in that district, moved to North Dakota and eventually became a supreme court justice of that state for a series of years. Morrill early removed to Minneapolis, later to California, where he led a checkered career. Mr. Bowers was a progressive and conscientious citizen, for some years associated with the late J. B. Robinson, his brother-in-law, in the real estate business. The writer remembers both of these men as loyal and helpful for many years.

"Perhaps the best-loved citizen of that decade was that good physician, W. D. Flinn. I doubt whether any other pioneer resident of Redwood Falls was ever able to serve so many people in so many beneficial ways as Dr. Flinn.

"In church organization work, Rev. R. E. Anderson was pastor at the time of the destruction by fire of the first church building of the Presbyterian denomination, the winter of 1882-1883, remaining until after the erection of the new church on the present site, of which he was the first pastor. After him came that fine old soldier of the cross, Dr. J. G. Riheldaffer, and later Dr. John Sinclair early in the nineties. Dr. Riheldaffer and family were strong factors in the social and religious life of Redwood Falls in the eighties. In the M. E. church, I recall the ministry of Rev. C. S. Dunn, Rev. John Pemberton and Rev. Hanscomb, the latter being associated in my memory with the erection of the present M. E. church in the nineties.

"Notable events during the eighties were the big fire in the fall of 1884, which cleaned out the buildings on Second street, opposite the Gazette office of today, and was followed the next year by the erection of most of the brick buildings on Washington street, as well as those west of the Aune & Thune block on Second street; the entrance of the M. & St. L. Railway into Redwood county in 1884; the series of murder trials, beginning with the Alexander homicide on the streets of Redwood Falls and followed by the dramatic Rose trials—three of them—the last ending with the only hanging in Redwood county during my thirty-one years of residence; the Holden murder trials, wherein Judge Baldwin did effective work for the defense, was the last of the series, both the accused and his victim being Morton residents.

"I am not at all satisfied with the crude outline of memories of thirty years ago, but realize that it is too long for a newspaper sketch. The development of the school system of Redwood county, to which S. J. Race as county superintendent, aided by his faithful helpmate, devoted twenty busy and fruitful years, deserves more than passing mention, and this is only one of many

progressive movements, which I hope will be brought out in your Old-Home week celebration and anniversary issues.

“Memory at this time recalls many kind people I first knew in those ten years, which those of us who lived in Redwood Falls then ‘have loved long since, and lost awhile.’ Dear old Father Swift, Donald and big Archie Stewart, Dr. Riheldaffer, Aunt Ella McMillan, Father and Mother McKay, Jim Robinson, Nick Hunter, Mrs. Chollar, Squire Chapman, Robert Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Pond, Mr. and Mrs. Van Schaak, and others, but I must bring this to a close or be too late for next week’s Gazette.—Jas. Aiken, Whittier, Cal., May 17, 1914.” (In the Redwood Falls “Gazette.”)

**John Mooer Killed.** In May, 1865, a son of John Mooer was shot accidentally; this was the second death. The circumstances of his unfortunate death were nearly as follows: A number of government scouts were encamped, with their families, near Rice creek, at a point about seven miles northwest of the stockade, at Redwood Falls. John Mooer, Alexis La Frambois, Joe La Frambois, and Tom Robinson were the leaders and prominent men of the party. Though it is probable that they never had an encounter with the Indians, encamped as they were in a hostile attitude, it is not strange that they were on the alert and sometimes received a scare. One night John Mooer’s son was on guard, serving his turn, as a guard was constantly kept. Finding it cold he wrapped himself in a blanket and wore it on his beat. Coming into the tents at the end of his patrol, a squaw waking suddenly, screamed when she saw him dressed so much like the hostile Sioux, and Alexis La Frambois, who was lying on his gun, raised it, and, taking him for an Indian, shot and killed him, the charge passing through him from side to side. He was brought to the stockade and buried just outside.—(History of the Minnesota Valley.)

**E. G. Pomroy**, now living in Delhi, assisted in erecting some of the first buildings at Ft. Ridgely in 1853, was here during the building of the Lower Sioux Agency in 1854, and assisted in building the government saw mill at Redwood Falls in 1855. Mr. Pomroy was born in Hopkinton, St. Lawrence county, New York, and in August, 1852, arrived at St. Paul to join his brother, Jesse H., who had come to Stillwater in 1845, and had assisted in building Ft. Ripley and other pioneer landmarks. April 29, 1853, he hired out to the government at Fort Snelling as a carpenter.

In the meantime by the treaty of 1851, ratified in 1853, the Sioux Indians were being removed to their reservation on the upper Minnesota river. The concentration of so many Indians upon an area small in comparison to the vast sweeps over which they had ranged, and a radical change in the conditions under

which they had lived for countless generations, were circumstances which the officials realized might result in situations which would require the firm hand of strongly entrenched authority.

For several reasons it was necessary that a military post be maintained in the vicinity of the new reservation. Whether the Indians would be reconciled to their new home was still a question, and it was realized that settlers, whose presence was needed to develop the country which the treaty opened, would not locate in any considerable numbers in the lower Minnesota valley, unless they were assured of some sort of protection from the Indians in the upper valley. It was also advisable that there should be constantly before the Indians a reminder of the strength and organization of the government.

It had already been decided that there were to be two Indian agencies for the Indians on the reservation. The Upper agency for the Sissetons and Wahpatons was established at the mouth of the Yellow Medicine, and the Lower for the Medawakanton and Wahpakoota bands was placed about six miles east of the mouth of the Redwood. Both agencies were on the south bank of the Minnesota river.

The matter of a new military post was called to the attention of C. M. Conrad, then secretary of war, and General Winfield Scott, then commanding the regular army, by Delegate Henry H. Sibley.

General Scott concurred in Sibley's recommendation and the secretary of war approved it and issued necessary orders. In the fall of 1852, Captain Napoleon Jackson Tecumseh Dana, then of the quartermaster's department (later colonel of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and major general of volunteers), and Colonel Francis Lee of the Sixth United States Infantry, then in command at Fort Snelling, were ordered to select a suitable site for the new fort, "on the St. Peter's river, above the mouth of the Blue Earth."

In the latter part of November, with an escort of dragoons from Fort Snelling, and after a three-days' march in the snow, the officers reached Laframboise's trading post, established about 1834, by Hazen Mooers, and placed in charge of Joseph Laframboise in 1837, and located at the mouth of the Little Rock creek. Five miles above the rock, just back of the crest of a high bluff on the north side of the Minnesota, the site was fixed, immediately west of the ravine of what is now called Fort Ridgely creek, and overlooking the beautiful Minnesota valley for many miles in each direction.

The Fort Ridgely reservation extended three miles on each side of the Minnesota river, being six miles each way, the boundary line jogging a mile north to every mile west.

Sometime during the winter Captain Dana with non-commissioned officers and men, erected a cabin on the banks of the river and the men started cutting timber.

The new post for a time was called simply "The New Fort," or "The New Post," but shortly afterward was named Fort Ridgely in honor of Major Randolph Ridgely, a gallant officer of the regular army from Maryland, who died of injuries received at the battle of Monterey. When Fort Ridgely was established, Fort Riley, Kansas, was ordered built. At the time Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Fort Scott, Kansas, were ordered discontinued and broken up. Fort Ridgely took the place of Fort Dodge and Fort Riley was substituted for Fort Scott.

The first garrison at Fort Ridgely was composed of Companies C and K, of the Sixth Infantry. The first commander was Captain James Monroe, then of Company K, who died in the Civil War, as colonel of the Twenty-seventh New York Volunteer Infantry. The sutler was Major B. H. Randall, for many years prominent in Minnesota history. The adjutant was T. C. Kelton, afterward adjutant general of the United States army.

Companies C and K went up on the steamboat West Newton from Fort Snelling. The troops arrived at the landing on the evening of April 30, 1853. On Sunday, the first day of May, they disembarked and pitched their tents for a summer camp. Aside from the settlement of Joseph Laframboise, there were no white people within fifty miles.

To the people of the present generation it is puzzling that the officers should have selected the location they did west of the ravine, when east of the ravine there is a piece of high land overlooking all the surrounding country, so situated as to be almost impregnable, whereas the site selected was far from being an ideal spot for a fortification. Officers later explained this by stating that the fort was never intended for defense. At the present time, however, it is difficult to understand how a fort established for the purpose of exercising military supervision over the Indians could have been built without some thought being taken of the possibility of defending it. The Indians had, as the officers said, promised perpetual peace, but the government had also made promises which it had broken. Whatever the thought of the military authorities may have been it is certain that the pioneers in settling in Renville county looked upon Fort Ridgely as a possible refuge and defense in case of emergency.

Company E marched across the country from Fort Dodge and arrived in June, 1853, when work on the buildings was begun. When Company E arrived, its captain, Brevet Major Samuel Woods, previously well identified with Minnesota history, took

command by virtue of his rank. The work of constructing the fort was in charge of Captain Dana.

With the party which arrived on the West Newton came the carpenters; also E. G. Pomroy, Jessie H. Pomroy, Oliver P. Wetmore of Plattville, Wisconsin, Cornelius C. Vandenburg of Hillsdale, Michigan, and Robert R. Craig, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The masons were Thomas Brannon and John Flynn. The brick maker was John Brinkman. Mr. and Mrs. Anton Bramyea boarded the boat near Bell Plain and became the cook and the civilian workman.

Many interesting events happened along the way. When they reached the site of Fort Ridgely, they found the log cabin on the river bank of Sergeant Cressey and wife and about twelve soldiers. Two blanketed Indians watched the landing and then disappeared. The soldiers started to unload, and for a time lived in tents while the carpenters and masons made ready the various buildings.

That year the workmen completed three hewed log buildings for the officers, a cook house, a carpenter shop and a blacksmith shop, all of logs. They erected one frame building, completed the stone commissary and started the famous stone barracks.

November, 1853, officers gathered all the Indians scattered from Kaposia (South St. Paul) to Shakopee for the purpose of transporting them to the reservation. When the Indians reached the timber near Bell Plain they gradually returned to their former homes. It was not until June, 1854, that the officials succeeded in moving them to the agency.

Mr. Pomroy tells with relish of a trip which he and the Ft. Ridgely mail carrier took through Bell Plain while the Indians were still camped there and when, for lack of accommodation, the two white men were compelled to spend the night with the Indians.

During the year 1854 the various buildings of the Lower Agency were erected. Mr. Pomroy assisted in getting out the sash and doors for the agency in the carpenter shop in Ft. Ridgely, but did not work at the agency. In the spring of 1855 Alexander Hunter, John Nairn and E. G. Pomroy built the government saw mill at the Falls of the Redwood. They blasted out the granite on the east bank of the falls, put in a flume and an overshot water wheel and erected the frame work of a mill. Their contract with the government was then completed.

In 1858 Mr. Pomroy again visited this region. He with his friend, Sheldon Henderson, were to meet an acquaintance at New Ulm and go on to Sioux Falls. Mr. Pomroy and Mr. Henderson came as far as the Carver Rapids in a steamboat. The steamer, unable to pass the rapids, went back to Shakopee, where Mr. Henderson and Mr. Pomroy disembarked. They crossed the



river at Henderson and continued across Nicollet county and came to Redwood Falls. Their Iowa friend had become frightened by the Inkapaduta Massacre and failed to meet them. Mr. Pomroy and Mr. Henderson accordingly came to the Falls of the Redwood, carted boards to the Minnesota river, built a boat and thus reached Mankato, where they boarded a steamer.

Mr. Pomroy again visited Redwood county just before the massacre. He was then carpenter aboard the steamer "Frank Steele," which brought a pleasure excursion to the Lower Agency. Mr. Pomroy and others walked up the bank from the river and witnessed a savage Indian pow-wow.

**J. S. Johnson's Experiences.** In the fall of 1870 we were living at Mankato, having followed railroading mostly since we arrived from Denmark in 1867. There were at that time many that emigrated to Chippeway county, and also to Ottertail, where they found some timber, but when we found there was plenty of good prairie land in Redwood county we decided to make our claim here. I have since that time seen all the land in this region and never felt sorry that we settled in Sundown. We had some hard times—grasshoppers, and also blight, destroyed our crops, and parties that had been used to better times were compelled to "skip the country." We got a little assistance from the government, and the third year the state furnished each farmer with twenty-two bushels of seed wheat from which we harvested a big yield. Nobody knows what became of the grasshoppers. Our winters were most severe, and at least one man who lost the road froze to death. Four of my neighbors were completely lost until one of the oxen fell into a straw stable. They were then compelled to stay in a dugout, 12 by 12 until the third day. Another great trouble was the prairie fires. I myself once lost all my stables and hay for eighteen head of stock, but neighbors helped me with hay free of charge. I have also known of people being lost in the big grass in the summer. Very few know how we came to call our town Sundown. At the first organization several names were proposed. A man named Gasel claiming to be first settler, another said he was not. J. Lorens, getting tired of the discussion, said it was near sundown. Some one immediately said, "Let it be Sundown." So much about old times. The difference between now and then never was expected. I plowed corn with a two-year old steer, my son riding—now my son and sons-in-law come to town with autos and take father out for a pleasure trip. I served Redwood county as commissioner seven years. When I first drove over, my buggy was an old trap partly self-made and the compensation I received was one-twentieth of what commissioners receive nowadays. When I got \$100 to build a bridge across the North Branch the neighbors would flock around offering to work for nothing. The old settlers are thinning

out fast. Our oldest man, J. M. Christensen, is past 80. I myself, 71, live in Springfield, but my interest is mostly in Redwood county and especially in Sundown.

**Early Days Near Walnut Grove.** (By Charles W. Howe.) Too much credit cannot be given to the pioneers, who, with little else than a stout heart and good health, fought their way to a competence, through all kinds of troubles and trials, some of them strong enough to appall the stoutest hearts.

Among the honor names will be found Eleck C. Nelson, Thos. Allen, Chas. Lund, Lars Truedson, the Moses family, Andrew Thompson, Eric Wilson, Nathan Rawlings, Swan Peterson, Peter Westman, Andrew and Swan Swanson, James and N. M. Crow, W. J. Masters, Byron Knight, Martin Jacobs and a host of others who, coming here when the country was new, took up or bought land and struggled forward to make the wilderness "blossom like the rose."

Some of these pioneers are alive today, are with us, and the writer has had the pleasure of listening to the stories of life as they found it while making a home for their loved ones.

Some have passed away, but will always be remembered by those who knew them. How the great silent wastes make one feel of the friendships of the day and knit them together! Such was the friendships of those great days when each man was a close neighbor even when they lived miles apart, one from the other. Those were the days when each man knew his neighbor by the name of Thomas, Andrew, Lars, Eleck or Peter, as the case might be; when friendships were so closely knit together that every man and his family was ready to assist the other in his struggle.

How many of us can still remember when sheep dotted the prairies; when each farmer had his little flock; when wool went down to almost nothing, because there was no market; when large lamb carcasses were a drug on the market at 50 cents apiece; when we ate lamb chops and mutton chops because we could not sell them. Those were days to try men's souls, but onward, ever onward the sturdy pioneer kept moving, holding to his property, only in a few instances giving up. Those were the days that showed how much of manhood there was in them.

Then again remember the time when you (I'm talking to the old settler, now) had put in that big field of oats, when you had harvested that bumper crop; some of which had measured out fifty bushels to the acre, had almost mortgaged your life to pay the threshing bill and haul it to the market, only to find that the price was seven or eight cents a bushel.

Then again, the spring wheat crop; in those years always "No. 1, hard" that gave an average of twenty bushels, which you had such a time to get rid of at thirty-eight cents. No one who lived in those times can forget it.

But in all those days the indomitable will of the settler held him to the place, many of those farms are still in the name of the original filer. The owner is enjoying a much needed rest in a nice house in town, while his son or a tenant is working the old homestead.

Too much honor cannot be given to the old pioneer who through trials and privations made it possible for those who came later to enjoy the modern style, the modern life; without them here to carve the way none of us could enjoy the wonderful prosperity of the present.

Take off your hats to Mr. and Mrs. Pioneer, who had the nerve and dare that enabled them to subdue the vast prairies of the vicinity and make it habitable for man.

How vividly those days come back to us when we went through the grasshopper plague; how we stood helpless at the side and saw the field change from green to black in so short a time. It really did seem that while we were looking on, the edge of the green field moved slowly along not only destroying the crops, but destroying our peace of mind, almost.

Then those days, when after feeding cattle on good pasture and corn, to find that from 1 to 3 cents a pound was fair price. Do you remember (of course you do) those four lean years when crops of all kinds were nearly a complete failure? As one of the old settlers expressed it to the writer. "There was nothing left but to put an extra shirt and pair of pants in a sack, put it on your shoulder and hike down east 65 or 70 miles and work in the harvest to earn enough to keep the family through the winter."

Then after the winter was over once again to take up the work on your own place and go through another summer, possibly finishing with another long hike in harvest time.

Well, those days are over, and, thanks to the old settler who had the nerve to stick, this particular end of the most fertile spot in Minnesota has been put in shape to attract people from all parts of the country. Rich land, good homes, successful farmers, made so in many instances by the discovery of that modern idea, rotation in crops, greet you on every hand. Through the furnace of affliction, trials, some of them so great that the stoutest heart would sometimes quail, has emerged the modern farmer, the dross of old ideas burned away, showing the pure gold of up-to-date styles of farming.

But those early days had their times of pleasure. The times when the neighbors drove for miles to picnics and house parties. Those were the days when, in lieu of the high powered automobiles, the farmer hitched up his ox team and drove miles to attend a church meeting, a picnic or town meeting, when the day was spent in pleasant intercourse one with the other.

These were the oases in the desert; the days which gave them

the strength to push forward towards the goal that each one was striving for, a home on the rolling prairies of southwestern Redwood county.

The soil in and around Walnut Grove is a dark rich loam from two to three feet deep resting on a clay subsoil. On account of the numerous creeks that traverse both townships the land is well drained, and excepting in some localities ditching was not needed.

The land in this locality is particularly adapted to the raising of corn and most cereals, and is especially good for stock. On nearly every farm in the locality the visitor will find good herds of cattle and hogs, and in many cases the cattle are grades of high order, Holsteins, Shorthorns and Red Durham are the prevailing breeds, while among the specimens of the hogs we find Duroc Jersey, Poland China and Chester Whites have the lead.

Walnut Grove takes the lead as a market for live stock, the local buyer and shipper handling hundreds of carloads each year. Fifty years ago this part of the domain of Uncle Sam was unknown to man, but today hundreds of farms with up-to-date modern homes cover the country.

In no other place can one find finer barns or finer stock buildings of any kind. The engravings we show in this little history prove this statement beyond a doubt.

This is essentially the home of corn, and southern Minnesota has proven time after time that her fields of corn are second to none in Iowa and Illinois. Thousands of bushels of the best matured corn ever grown are shipped every year from the stations along the Chicago & Northwestern, and Walnut Grove, with its four elevators, stands away in front with its share of shipments.

**Mrs. Roset A. Schmahl.** The career of a remarkable woman came to an end in the demise of Mrs. Roset Apfel Schmahl, for many years, and earlier years, so closely identified with the history of Redwood county and of the entire Minnesota Valley. She first saw the light of day on February 29, 1828, at Mainz, Germany. She was a leap-year child, and enjoyed but twenty-one birthday anniversaries, the calendar makers have skipped one four year period during her lifetime in order to catch up with the time revolutions of the earth around the sun.

Mrs. Schmahl was one of a large family, she being the youngest child. Her father was a stonemason of Mainz, and struggled hard in the support of the family. Most of the elder children came to America as soon as they could secure funds for transportation, and when Mrs. Schmahl was but eleven years old, she and her father left for Havre France, from which city they sailed for London and Liverpool. At the latter city they secured passage on a sailboat clearing for New York.

In those days the ocean steamers were unknown, and sail transportation was uncertain. The boat on which the couple had

secured passage was a small one, and with stormy weather and unfavorable winds, sixty days were required to make the journey from Liverpool to New York. From the latter city the two went to Galena, Ill., where relatives from the fatherland had already found homes, but the father and daughter remained there only a short time, coming to Caledonia, Houston county, Minn., on a Mississippi river steamboat. At Caledonia they remained for several years, several of Mr. Apfel's family having previously located at that place.

When St. Paul was still a village Mrs. Schmahl found employment in the home of Col. Robertson, then editor of the St. Paul Pioneer, and it was while thus employed that young Jacob Schmahl, who had met her in Mainz, and who had followed her to America, asked for and was given her hand. Jacob Schmahl became well acquainted with Gen. George Becker, Henry M. Rice, and other well-known men of that period, at a time when the proposition to remove the capitol of the state from St. Paul to St. Peter was receiving serious consideration, and he was advised to go to Traverse des Sioux, a mile out from the latter point, and establish a hotel. This was done, and during those early days when the annuities were being paid to the Indians the hotel at Araverse entertained many of the notables of that period. The house stood but a few rods from the spot where the celebrated Indian treaty of 1862 was consummated, the then living members of the Schmahl family all being present on that momentous occasion.

When the attempt to change the location of the capitol was abandoned, Traverse des Sioux declined and its little commerce was nothing. The Schmahl family moved on to a farm three miles east of Ft. Ridgely, and when the Indian outbreak of 1862 occurred Colonel Sheehan, at the head of the troops recalled from their march to Ft. Ripley, insisted that the family must take refuge in the fort. Mrs. Schmahl protested, but was finally persuaded to go with her husband and the children, and the troops and family had hardly entered the territory of the fort before it was surrounded by Indians, and that memorable ten days siege commenced.

It was during the crucial period that Mrs. Schmahl gave birth to a son—the late Emil Schmahl of Redwood Falls, and the day following his birth she left her bed and engaged in the work of caring for her brood, comforting other women and the injured, and above all, in moulding bullets for the troops. The soldiers were running short of ammunition, and it became necessary to cut nails, etc., and to mould this material into rough bullets. This was part of the work of Mrs. Schmahl, and for her heroic conduct during those days her name was given a place on the monument erected to the memory of soldiers and citizens who engaged in

the memorable defense of this outpost, then regarded as the key to the entire Minnesota valley.

Following the outbreak the Schmahl family returned to the old stone farm house east of the fort, only to find it entirely destroyed, the personal property stolen or destroyed, and an attempt was made to establish a new home at St. Peter. Hard struggling, without much personal gain, Jacob Schmahl came to Redwood Falls in 1869, where he determined to locate and establish a brewery, and in 1870, the family moved here. The head of the family was unsuccessful in his venture and Mrs. Schmahl devoted her time to the support of the children and in getting them established in various occupations in which she proved remarkable. Prior to 1876 the dancing parties of the town, with their bountiful suppers, were held in what was known as Schmahl's hall, and it was Mrs. Schmahl and her daughters that always superintended the cuisine. With the destruction of the old home in 1876, and the building of the new home, now on the corner of Second and Bridge streets, these parties were abandoned, and Mrs. Schmahl struggled in other lines until her children were able to assist her to make the latter years full of comfort. Several years ago she took up her residence with her youngest daughter, Mrs. John J. Palmer, at Duluth, and it was at this home that she passed away.

For a month prior to November 5, she and her daughter, Mrs. M. Liebenguth, visited with her son, Julius A. Schmahl, at St. Paul, and it was during this period that her decline in physical strength, although she was still strong mentally, became noticeable.

Mrs. Schmahl was rich in reminiscences of the fatherland, and of the city where she was born, although but eleven years old when she left that country, and frequently, to her family she would recall her early experiences in Germany, France, England, and on the high seas in her trip to America. She passed through the eastern states when they were young, and came into the wilderness of Minnesota and gave her mite towards building up a great commonwealth. A German minister but recently remarked of her, while he was engaged in laying the corner stone of a new hospital in St. Paul, that she had accomplished a greater work than that about to commence at that moment—the bringing of ten children into the world, and the bringing up of most of them into manhood and womanhood. Of the ten children four preceded her to the grave—Mrs. Julia Jaehning, Otto, Emil and an infant son. The six children surviving her are: Mrs. Geo. Wingett, Mrs. Matilda Liebenguth, Mrs. J. J. Palmer, Alex C., Herman G., and Julius A. Schmahl.

**The Days that Tried Men's Souls.** (By Charles W. Howe.) During the grasshopper years and afterwards for some time,



the settlers who came to stay and did stay, were nearly at their wits end many times to know how to pull through.

Some years with no crops and other with bumper ones but prices so low that it would not pay to haul the grain to market.

Many a pioneer has staked his all on a crop of oats, has seen them growing from day to day, has changed work with his neighbor to get his harvesting done, and again the threshing, to find the price about seven cents per bushel on track.

Wheat was a good crop in those days, but there was nothing to keep the price up. The farmer would sow his seed, pray for rain, almost mortgage his life to get the crop harvested and threshed, to find that thirty-eight cents was a good price for No. 1 hard.

Those were the days that tried men's souls. Some farmers tried sheep but in the season for selling they could get nothing for their wool and possibly fifty cents a carcass for their dressed sheep. Those surely were dark days.

Then the year of the deep snows, when no trains passed; when no engine smoke was seen or familiar whistle was heard from fall until spring. No mail except someone went to New Ulm. Think of ourselves, sitting here in the lap of luxury, in the very center of civilization; enjoying our daily papers, with mail and express from four to six times a day, and then hark back in your mind to the days when the horse or ox team could not or dare not venture out.

Frank Schandera came to the present site of Lamberton in the early seventies and started a general store. He was the only one of the business men who settled here that stuck through the terrible days of grasshoppers and poor prices for crops; he alone braved the storms, making himself useful to his fellow man wherever he could. He broke roads through so that he could drive to New Ulm, for stock for his store. Frank stood by the settler, keeping his family in something to eat and wear when the crops were failures from one source or another for a number of years.

Some of the old settlers, now living, tell the writer that Schandera would go down east for a hundred miles or so where the crops were safe and procure work for the settlers of this community during the harvesting and threshing, thereby enabling them to pay up their arrearages, or nearly so, and then he would carry them another year, only to go through it again when the season came.

He drove to New Ulm through the inclement weather, sometimes as often as once a week to bring back the mail for the surrounding country, because Uncle Sam could only bring it so far on its way. Think of that, reader, you who can go to the postoffice two or three times a day, or can see the postman, rural delivery,



drive by in all kinds of weather, depositing the daily paper, published in the city the night before.

We surely have reason to be thankful that such men lived; that the old pioneers braved the storms, the trials and privations of the past that we may now enjoy the privileges of the present.

In a brief fifty years Lamberton has grown to its present proportions, and instead of the times when people lived on the bare necessities of life we are living where the luxuries have become the necessities.

We are living now in the days of \$1.50 wheat; of 80 cent corn; of \$10.00 hay; of \$10.00 hogs; in fact, in the day when the farmer gets more for his product than ever before. We talk of the high cost of living, but that high cost comes from the advanced price of the farmer's crops and stock, and the farmer is the backbone of this great free country.

The writer can only touch on the old dark days; only show you of this day some of the trials that were undergone by the old settlers, but some of them are with us yet and can tell you more and more of those days that served to burn away the dross in the fires of trouble and bring out the man.

But those days were days that cemented friendships. Those were the days when every man was his neighbor's friend; when each one looked to the other's interests; when there was more of truth and less of sham; more of forgiveness and less of pride.

Those were the days of true community interests when the interests of one were the interests of all. Those were the days when we were nearer old Mother Earth; when we could reach out a greeting hand to all who came.

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### COURTS, CASES AND ATTORNEYS.

On June 11, 1849, Alexander Ramsey, the first territorial governor of Minnesota, issued a proclamation dividing the territory into judicial districts. The Third District consisted of all of the territory south of the Minnesota and west of the Mississippi, and westward to the territorial line. The present Redwood county was included in the Third District with Judge David Cooper on the bench. The first term of court for the district was to be held at Mendota, on the fourth Monday in August.

Redwood county was at that time entirely without settlers.

By act of the legislature, October 27, 1849, the entire territory was divided into counties. Wabashaw county, as designated under the act, was comprised of practically the entire southern

third of the present state of Minnesota, and the southwestern portion of South Dakota, and thus included the present Redwood county.

Itasca and Wabashaw (as it was then spelled) counties were, for judicial purposes, attached to Washington county, with Judge David Cooper on the bench.

The legislature of 1851, by Chapter 1 of the Revised Statutes, passed January 1, reapportioned the territory into new counties. The present county of Redwood, under the new distribution, was entirely embraced in Dakota county, which county was attached to Ramsey county for judicial purposes.

March 5, 1853, the present Redwood county was included in the county of Blue Earth, which county, by legislative act of that date, was endowed with all the rights of a fully organized county.

February 20, 1855, Brown county was constituted a fully organized county, and included within the boundaries the present Redwood county.

At that time the Indian reservation had been established, but Redwood county had no settlers outside of the government employees, the Indians, and the traders at the Lower Sioux Agency.

Redwood county was created February 6, 1862, and its organization affirmed February 23, 1865, the eastern boundary on the latter date being the same as at present, the western boundary being the state line.

The county then became a part of the Sixth Judicial District, and so remained until March 11, 1870, on which date it became a part of the Ninth Judicial District, the district in which it still remains.

Judge Horace Austin, of St. Peter, went on the bench of the Sixth Judicial district, January 1, 1865. He had jurisdiction over Redwood county, but heard no Redwood county cases. He did, however, hold court in Redwood county to hear the so-called New Ulm cases.

Judge M. G. Hanscom, of St. Peter, who had been on the bench of the Sixth district since October 1, 1869, went on the bench of the Ninth district as its first judge, March 11, 1870. He presided over the annual September terms of 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874 and 1875, and the annual June term of 1876 and 1877.

Judge E. St. Julien Cox of St. Peter went on the bench of the Ninth district in 1877. His first official act for Redwood county was an order in chambers at St. Peter, May 23, 1878, dispensing with the services of the grand jury for the forthcoming June term. One of the early acts of Judge Cox was his appointment, April 25, 1878, of a commission consisting of Bishop Gordon, Till Tibbetts and M. K. Butterfield, to determine the value of lands and damages incident to the building of the railroad from Sleepy Eye to Redwood Falls. During Judge Cox's term the legal

business of the county was greatly increased. Two regular annual terms were inaugurated and several special terms were held. Judge Cox's last service in Redwood county was in presiding over the special terms at Redwood Falls, October 21, 1881, and at about this time charges were filed against him asking for his impeachment as judge, and the legislature next convening in January, 1882, heard the charges and he was impeached by it, the principal charge being that of alleged misconduct while sitting on the bench and hearing cases. After his impeachment he again took up the private practice of law at St. Peter, where he lived for about fifteen years thereafter, and subsequently moved to California where he since died.

Judge William Lochren of the Fourth Judicial district, and afterwards United States district judge for the District of Minnesota, having been appointed such by Grover Cleveland, then president, presided over the term of December, 1881.

Judge Hial D. Baldwin, of Redwood Falls, was appointed to the bench of the Ninth district by Governor Lucius F. Hubbard, April 4, 1882. He held two general terms of court, those of June 6, 1882, and December 5, 1882.

Judge Benjamin F. Webber, of New Ulm, was elected judge of the Ninth Judicial district at the fall election of 1882, and assumed the office January 3, 1883, and first presided over a Redwood county term of court at Redwood Falls, convening June 5, 1883. He continued as judge until October, 1906, when he resigned, though this term would have expired December 31st following. The events following his resignation were quite tragic; having served nearly twenty-four years on the bench of this district and practically without opposition, at the election in the fall of 1906 he again filed as a candidate. The opposition to his election was quite strong and he thereupon withdrew as a candidate and resigned his office; and, after his successor had been appointed and immediately preceding the convening of the fall term of court at New Ulm, his home town, he took his own life, and thus passed one of the oldest judges, both in point of age and service, then upon the bench in the state.

Judge Oscar Hallam of St. Paul, one of the judges of the Second Judicial district, presided over the November, 1906, term, he having been appointed for that purpose by Governor John A. Johnson, pending the election of a successor to Judge Webber.

Judge I. M. Olsen of Sleepy Eye, the present judge, went on the bench of the Ninth Judicial district, by appointment of Governor John A. Johnson, November 15, 1906, he having just been elected judge of the district at the November election to succeed Judge Webber, then resigned. Judge Olson's first term in Redwood county was that of April, 1907.

The present officers of the court are W. G. Weldon, clerk;

Albert H. Enersen, county attorney; Frank J. Hassenstab, sheriff; and W. T. Eckstein, official reporter.

The first term of the District Court held in Redwood county was for the purpose of a grand jury inquiry into the New Ulm murder cases. The hearing was held above the store of Louis Robert, beginning June 18, 1867. Two soldiers, returning from a trapping expedition, had entered a saloon at New Ulm, an altercation ensued in which one of the merry-makers at the saloon was killed, the two soldiers had been taken to a hall, a mob verdict passed against them, and after being killed by stabbing had been thrust through the ice of the Minnesota river, their bodies being mutilated in the process. There being no opportunity for a fair trial at New Ulm, Judge Austin ordered the hearings heard at Redwood Falls, which was likewise in his jurisdiction. Later a trial in the same cases was held at St. Peter.

The attorneys employed in the case at Redwood Falls were: William Colville, attorney general; Sam McPhail, county attorney, and S. A. Buel, for the prosecution; Judge C. E. Flandrau of St. Paul, C. T. Clothier, Francis Baasen and John M. Dorman, all of New Ulm, for the defense. At the first hearing at Redwood Falls the citizens of New Ulm rallied in such numbers to the support of the prisoners that courthouse square was covered with their tents as they encamped during the hearing. They were present again at the adjourned hearing at Redwood Falls in September, but in small numbers.

The first regular term of the District Court of Redwood county opened in Redwood Falls, September 13, 1870, in a small building on Second street, between Washington and Mill streets, with Judge Horace Austin on the bench. The grand jury found no indictments. The case of William Beard v. J. Wilson Paxton, appealed from the justice court, came for consideration and the judgment of the lower court was affirmed. A divorce case was also on the calendar.

A demurrer was filed in the case of Birney Flynn vs. the Board of County Commissioners. This case, which was afterward dismissed, was an interesting one. Mr. Flynn was clerk of court from January 1, 1866, to January 1, 1870. At that time no court was being held for Redwood county. Mr. Flynn, however, acted as clerk of the sessions held in Redwood Falls in June and September, 1867, at which the New Ulm cases were tried. For services at these two sessions, and for the alleged use of his home as his office, he sued the county commissioners, and the case hung fire for some time before it was finally dropped.

The first jury trial before the district court in Redwood county was held in September, 1871. The case is interesting as a picture of pioneer life and law. Browning Nichols, of Rochester, on his way to a townsite in which he was interested in *Lac qui Parle*

county, stopped over night at Redwood Falls, and fell in with D. L. Bigham. With Mr. Bigham, he traded his pair of horses and a harness for land in the village of Redwood Falls, on which many important business establishments are now located. Mr. Nichols secured the deed to the lots and continued on his way with his horses. One of the animals died on the trip. On his return, Mr. Nichols placed the remaining horse, the tail of the dead horse, and the harness, in Mr. Bigham's stable. On the advice of an attorney, Mr. Bigham turned the horse loose, and threw out the harness and tail. He then brought suit against Mr. Nichols. In the District court trial, Mr. Bigham was represented by M. E. Powell and Hial D. Baldwin, while Sam McPhail and E. St. Julien Cox appeared for Mr. Nichols. The jurors in the case were W. W. Byington (foreman), S. J. F. Ruter, Ezra Post, George Pryor, Sr., L. J. Russell, L. B. Newton, James Longbottom, Bishop Gordon, S. M. Stowell, J. P. O'Hara, Casper Stowell and J. M. Little. The whole case hinged on whether the horse had passed into Mr. Bigham's possession at the time of the transfer of the lots and before Mr. Nichols had taken the trip. The evidence tended to show that the delivery of the horses was not to take place until they were actually turned over to Mr. Bigham. After the trial the jury retired for deliberation to a small building near the room in which the court had met. Through the door and window their deliberations could plainly be seen by the spectators. While the deliberations were proceeding, the parties concerned reached an agreement by which Mr. Bigham was to be restored all his land except one lot, and he was to assist Mr. Nichols in locating the horse, which in the meantime had wandered away. The court records show a sealed verdict in favor of the plaintiff and a notice of an appeal, but this is often called the case with no verdict, owing to the fact that a compromise had been reached when the sealed verdict was opened.

### THE BAR.

M. E. Powell, the Nestor of the bar in Redwood county, is not now in active practice, but is still a member of the bar. The next oldest in point of service is former Senator Frank Clague, of Redwood Falls. The other Redwood Falls lawyers are A. R. A. Laudon, the present judge of probate; and A. C. Dolliff. Albert H. Enersen, the county attorney practices at Lamberton as does Anthony J. Praxel. W. R. Werring practices at Morgan. A. F. Goblirsch has been until recently located at Wabasso. There are, therefore, but six active members of the bar in this county, and two of those are occupying county offices.

Sampson R. B. McPhail, usually called Sam McPhail, and sometimes erroneously called Samuel McPhail, was the first lawyer in

Redwood county. He founded Redwood Falls in 1864. He was the first judge of probate and first county attorney, and continued in active practice as long as he remained here.

The second attorney in Redwood county was Major M. E. Powell, who arrived in April, 1867, and is still the Nestor of the Redwood county bar. He was one of the early county attorneys.

Coulter Wiggins started the practice of law in Redwood Falls in 1868. He succeeded Col. McPhail, both as judge of probate and as county attorney.

W. H. Cook arrived in Redwood Falls in 1869, George H. Meguire in 1870, and Hial D. Baldwin in 1870. Mr. Meguire became a leading figure in Renville county affairs, while Mr. Baldwin served Redwood county as district judge, judge of probate, and clerk of court.

J. Wilson Paxton, who arrived in the early days, was a lawyer as well as clergyman, but his name appears in the district court records as a case attorney but once.

In 1878, the attorneys of Redwood Falls were Hial D. Baldwin, John H. Bowers, M. E. Powell and Alfred Wallin. In 1880, Frank L. Morrell had joined H. D. Baldwin of Redwood Falls and Samuel R. Miller of Beaver Falls, in the Redwood Falls concern of Baldwin, Miller & Morrell. In 1884 Clarence T. Ward had been added to the bar as a partner of H. D. Baldwin. In 1888 M. M. Madigan had become a member of the Redwood Falls bar. M. C. Roberts practiced a few months in the eighties. In 1894 the firm of (H. D.) Baldwin, (W. J.) McLeod & (B. F.) Fowler, appeared. In 1894 W. L. Pierce had been added to the bar. Two new firms, Baldwin (H.D.) & Patterson (E. C.) and Chadderdon (Joseph) & Stuart (David), appeared. E. E. Harriott became a member of the bar in 1900. In 1902 the firm of Pierce (S. L.) & Harriott (E. E.) appeared, as did the firm of Bowers (J. H.) & Howard (C. T.), while Frank Clague (county attorney, Lamberton), A. C. Dolliff and A. R. A. Laudon had been added to the Redwood Falls bar. The name of S. L. Pierce was added to the bar in 1904. In 1906 C. T. Howard started in practice alone. Wm. O. Owens appeared in 1910.

The first lawyer in Lamberton was Michael M. Madigan. In 1882 George Libby and the firm of Thorp (D. M.) & Whitney (B. H.) were added to the practitioners there. After Madigan moved to Redwood Falls in the late eighties, several years passed in which there were no attorneys in Lamberton. In 1894 the firm of Anderson (Christopher H.) & Clague (Frank) appeared. A. E. Edwards had joined the bar of the village in 1896 and in 1897 moved to Morgan. In 1898 Frank Clague was still in practice there, and Warren Miller and A. H. Mohler had been added to the list. In 1902 Albert H. Enersen had joined the bar of the county and he and Frank Clague constituted the only law firm

in Lamberton, the firm name being Clague & Enersen. In 1910, Anthony J. Praxel had been added to the list. Senator Clague soon afterwards moved to Redwood Falls, leaving the Messrs. Enersen and Praxel as the only attorneys in that village.

D. M. Thorp was the first lawyer in Walnut Grove. In 1882 he had been succeeded by the firm of Thorp (D. M.), Quarton (J. M.) & Whitney (B. H.), which firm in 1884 had been succeeded by Thorp & Quarton. After that the village was without lawyers for several years. William H. Gooler was located there in 1900. He remained for several years. In 1904 William G. Owens and J. Ed. Rostad were the practicing attorneys there. In 1908 William G. Owens and Arthur M. Murfin were the lawyers there. Since that time Walnut Grove has had no attorneys.

The first lawyer in Morgan was Albert E. Edwards, in 1896-97, and was followed by Albert Hauser, who appeared in the directory of 1900. He was followed by the present Morgan attorney, Wayne R. Werring, whose name first appears in the directory of 1908.

Pierce (Squire L.) & Harriott (Edw. E.) first appear in the Wabasso directory of 1902. The name of Albert W. Mueller appeared in 1904. The name of Albert F. Goblersch appeared in 1914. Mr. Goblersch recently left the county, leaving Wabasso without an attorney.

F. E. Sylvester, a banker, is an attorney, and until his recent removal to Morton, in this state, where he is now engaged in banking, was a member of the Redwood county bar at Seaforth, his name first appearing in the directory in 1908.

Thomas R. Brownlee practiced in Sanborn a short time, his name first appearing in the directory of 1898.

### MURDERS.

Edward McCormick, in the early seventies, was found dead at his home, where he lived alone, and an autopsy revealed that he had died from strychnine poisoning. His brother, Patrick, was held for several months, but was discharged for lack of evidence.

Samuel T. Alexander shot and killed Charles Mower on the streets of Redwood Falls July 21, 1885. He was subsequently tried by the district court and acquitted. Mower lived in Missouri. His daughter was the wife of Alexander. Leaving Alexander in Missouri, Mower and his family started for Minnesota and had passed through Redwood Falls on their way toward points further northwest. On their return they located temporarily in Redwood Falls. With them was a man named Petit. To Redwood Falls Alexander followed the family and on a July Sunday morning, when the streets were filled with people accosted Petit and a Mower boy on the street and began shooting at them. Later encountering Mower at the corner of Mill and Chestnut streets



in front of the old Canada house, he emptied his revolver at him. Several shots taking effect and the last shot, one through the head, proving fatal. The shooting was witnessed by dozens of the county's leading citizens who testified to the cold blooded facts, but for some reason the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty. Alexander himself acknowledged that he had no grievance against Mower and that his only anger was against Petit, of whom he was jealous and whom he alleged was planning to marry his wife.

John Gorres, a prominent farmer living in Willow Lake township, killed a hired man, John Rosenkranz, with a pitchfork, in the spring of 1888. The story was that he went home much the worse for liquor, encountered Rosenkranz in the barn and there murdered him. He was tried before the district court, was sentenced to six and a half years at Stillwater, and after serving for a while he was parolled and eventually pardoned. He died in Willow Lake not long ago. His life, after his release, was an exemplary one and he became a respected member of the community as, in fact, he had always been before the crime.

Clifton Holden was indicted for murder November 28, 1888, was sentenced to death by hanging, had this commuted to life imprisonment by the government, went insane at state's prison at Stillwater and was taken to the insane asylum at Rochester and there died. Before the governor granted his reprieve, the Supreme Court had reviewed the case January 14, 1890, and had affirmed the sentence of the lower court.

The story of the crime is quickly told. At about 7 o'clock in the evening of Friday, November 23, 1888, the defendant and the deceased, Frank Dodge, left the village of Morton, to drive in a buggy to the village of Redwood Falls, a distance of seven miles. At a later hour of the same evening the defendant came, with the team, to a hotel in Redwood Falls, where he remained that night. At an early hour the following morning the dead body of Dodge was found lying at the side of a street in Redwood Falls. He had been shot, the ball having entered the head on the back side, and passed through the brain. Saturday evening, the 24th of November, the defendant was arrested for the homicide, and imprisoned in a room used for the purposes of a jail. Subsequently, Holden told two different stories: One was that he had left Dodge in Redwood Falls and had never again seen him alive. The other was that Dodge killed himself while riding in a team with him and that he subsequently left his body by the side of the road. The testimony was voluminous but in substance showed as follows: That the weapon was discharged very close to the head of the deceased, the hair being burned about the wound; the discovery of appearances of blood upon the defendant's overcoat, which the defendant said must have got on the coat when he was

getting the body of the deceased out of the buggy; the appearance of blood, also, in the buggy, and on the robe used in the buggy; the fact that the deceased probably had a roll of money in bills, to the amount of about \$100 including a new \$20 bill, and that, while immediately after the homicide the defendant professed to have no more than about four or five dollars in money, he had in his possession some \$80 in bills, including a \$20 bill; that after his arrest he attempted to conceal this money, so that the sheriff should not find it; that appearances of blood were found on the money; that the defendant, according to his own statement, threw away the pistol which he had before the homicide, and it was not afterwards found; that the bullet was of the proper size to fit the defendant's pistol. The overcoat and robe and money were exhibited to the jury as evidence, and attention was called to the marks claimed to have been blood-stains.

The only hanging in Redwood county was that of William Rose, convicted in the district court for the murder of Moses Lufkin. The hanging took place on the scaffold erected for that purpose in what is now the alley back of the Christian Church in the city of Redwood Falls. The victim, an elderly man, was assassinated in the town of Gales, in the county of Redwood, at the house of his relative, the witness, Slover, who was well acquainted with defendant, at about 8 o'clock in the evening of August 22, 1888. He was at the time seated on a lounge against the north window of the room, conversing with Slover. The window was uncovered, except with mosquito netting over the lower half, and the lower sash was raised. His left shoulder rested against the window casing, leaving a portion of his back exposed to view from the outside. While so engaged, he was suddenly shot, and immediately expired. The shot must have been fired from the outside, and the direction of the weapon adjusted by the assassin with reference to the height of the window above the ground, and within a few feet of it. The ball passed through the body of the deceased, and pieces of it were picked up afterwards in the room. Slover, who sat nine feet away, immediately "jumped" to the window, looked out, and testified that he saw a person fleeing in an opposite direction, about thirty feet away, whom he recognized to be the defendant, William Rose, who was well known to him, though he did not have a view of his face. Rose was duly indicted by the grand jury, was tried three times before the district court, the jury in each of the first two trials disagreeing, and on the third trial he was found guilty, was sentenced to be hanged, and the sentence affirmed by the supreme court, July 28, 1891.

John O'Connell was murdered at his home in Westline August 2, 1897. While suspicion was strongly directed, there was no evidence upon which an indictment could be secured.

Gustav Metag killed Frederick Kuehn in Sherman township in the fall of 1897. He was convicted and sent to Stillwater for life. A number of influential citizens interested themselves in his behalf and he has recently been released. Kuehn had disposed of his farm to a man who leased it to Metag, but was still living in a shack on the place. Kuehn interfered with Metag's farming in various ways. At last, after a vigorous dispute over a question of grain threshing, Metag, in a heat of passion, ended Kuehn's life by shooting. Metag's sentence was subsequently commuted by the board of pardons, and he was thereafter released from the prison on parole by the board of paroles.

October 25, 1899, Frank E. Babcock, a well-to-do farmer living a mile and a half west of Redwood Falls, killed his wife and three boys, aged five, eight and fourteen years. He first shot his wife in the barn, then wrote a note saying that he had intended to shoot a rooster and killed her by mistake. Then he went out and shot the two younger boys where they were playing in the yard. The older boy was at work in a field about a half mile distant, and he next went out to him, bade him unhitch the horses from the plow, stepped back some distance and shot him, and then immediately ended his own life.

Willis Tibbetts, on September 2, 1909, killed his daughter, Dorothy, and a young lady, Cecil Morton, in Delhi township and then ended his own life.

Ira B. Pratt died November 16, 1910. It was alleged that his death was hastened by blows received at North Redwood. Virgil L. Mallett was arrested in connection with the death, charged with murder in the first degree and with manslaughter. He was tried in the district court, was convicted of assault and sentenced to six months in jail.

The Seaforth arson cases are still occupying wide attention in Redwood county. Thomas H. Jordan and M. E. Garvey, two energetic young land men from Iowa, acquired the hotel at Seaforth and hired J. W. Keyes to operate it. This hotel, which was the finest in the county, was burned to the ground on Easter morning, 1915. A number of the occupants narrowly escaped with their lives. Previous to the fire, the owners had increased the insurance and made what was afterwards proved to be a bogus sale of the property to Keyes. The insurance companies and the state fire marshal at once began to investigate. Keyes, who was found by the fire marshal in Iowa, confessed that he set the fire at the instigation of Jordan and Garvey. He was taken to Minneapolis, where, with the fire marshal, stenographers listening on the wire, he called up Jordan and demanded money. Jordan, making some damaging admissions, sent him a check for \$100 by his brother. A photograph of this check was afterwards introduced as evidence. Keyes was tried in the fall of 1915,

pleaded guilty, and was sent to Stillwater. Jordan was tried in the fall of 1915 and the jury disagreed. He was again tried in the spring of 1916 and convicted. The trial of Garvey is yet to be had.

### CIVIL CASES.

An attempt to tax railroad property in Redwood county resulted in a decision of the supreme court January 11, 1875, and that court affirmed the decision of Judge Cox that the lands had been illegally assessed and discharging them from the taxes, costs, penalties and the like incident thereto.

The case came before the court under the provisions of Section 120, Chapter 1, laws of 1874, the contention being over the question of whether the immunity from taxation enjoyed by the Transit Company lands had descended to the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company.

It appeared that the lands sought to be subjected to taxation "were granted and conveyed by the government of the United States to the Territory of Minnesota, to aid in the building of said line of railroad, under and in pursuance of an act of Congress, approved March 3, 1857, entitled 'An act making a grant of lands to the Territory of Minnesota, in alternate sections, to aid in the construction of certain railroads in said state'; and under an act of Congress, approved March 3, 1865, entitled 'An act extending the time for the completion of certain land-grant railroads in the states of Minnesota and Iowa, and for other purposes'; and under and in pursuance of an act of Congress, approved July 3, 1866, entitled 'An act relating to lands granted to the State of Minnesota to aid in constructing railroads'; and under and in pursuance of certain acts of Congress amendatory of said acts.

"That said lands were, prior to the first day of January, 1874, conveyed by the governor of the State of Minnesota, and deeded to the said Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company, under and in pursuance of an act of the legislature of the Territory of Minnesota, approved March 3, 1855, entitled 'A bill to incorporate the Transit Railroad Company'; and under and in pursuance of an act of the legislature of said Territory of Minnesota, approved May 22, 1857, entitled 'An act to execute the trust created by an act of Congress, and granting lands to the Transit Railroad Company'; and under and in pursuance of an act of said legislature of the State of Minnesota, approved March 10, 1862, entitled 'An act to facilitate the construction of a railroad from Winona westerly by way of St. Peter'; and under and in pursuance of an act of the legislature of said State of Minnesota, approved March 4, 1865, entitled 'An act to authorize the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company to consolidate with the Minnesota Central Railroad Company, and to bridge the Mississippi River.'

"That said lands were, at the date of the assessment thereof

for taxes of 1873, owned by the said Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company, and are still owned by the said company; and were, by the assessors, placed on the lists for taxation for the said year 1873.

“By Section 4, Sub-chapter 2, of the act of May 22, 1857, it is enacted that the lands granted by said act to the Transit Railroad Company, ‘Shall be and are exempted from all taxation, until the same shall have been sold and conveyed by said company.’” The decision was therefore rendered accordingly. (21 Minn., 315.)

The effort on the part of the county to collect taxes on land of the Winona & St. Peter Land Company occupied the attention of the courts for several years. Two important decisions were rendered in Brown county and two in Redwood county. The two Brown county decisions (38 Minn., 397) and (39 Minn., 380) were subsequently modified to accord with the Redwood county decision.

In the year 1886 certain lands in Redwood county then owned by the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company and which had not hitherto been assessed for taxes were assessed by the county and for taxes for previous years, some for each year following 1869, others for each year following 1870 and others for each year following 1871. Each parcel of land being assessed for each year subsequent to its conveyance by the state to the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company and subsequent to the execution on October 31, 1867, of the contract between that company and D. N. Barney, Barney being succeeded by the Winona & St. Peter Land Company. None of the lands were assessed or any steps taken to enforce any taxes against them until 1866, when in pursuance with the provisions of General Statutes 1878, Chapter 11, Section 113, as amended by Laws of 1881, Chapter 5, and Laws of 1885, Chapter 2, Section 23. The county auditor entered them upon the assessment and tax books, assessed them, and extended taxes against them, on the tax list for the current year, for each year subsequent to the dates when the lands were conveyed by the state to the railway company, and included in the amount of such taxes interest thereon from the time they would have become delinquent had they been assessed in the proper years. The taxes so assessed remaining unpaid on the first Monday of January, 1888, were included in the delinquent list filed in the district court, and the Winona & St. Peter Land Co. answered, alleging its objections, which were overruled by Judge Webber, and judgment was ordered and entered for the amount of such taxes and interest, and also for a penalty of 10 per cent on such amount, as accruing June 1, 1887, and a further penalty of 5 per cent as accruing in January, 1888, because of non-payment. (General Statutes 1878, Chapter 11, Section 69, as amended by Laws 1885,

Chapter 2, Section 15.) At the defendant's request, the case was certified to the Supreme court. The reason the lands were not assessed before 1886 was found by the court to be "That neither the township assessors nor the county officers in said Redwood county had any knowledge of the existence of the contract or agreement between the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company and Barney (Exhibit W) until about the first day of September, 1886, and they presumed said lands were exempt from taxation."

All of the lands formed part of the land grant of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company, and were all included in the contract with Barney and others, the effect of which contract was (as held in the cases referred to in the opinion) to render them taxable immediately upon their conveyance by the state to the railroad company, although, by the terms of the grant, the lands granted were "exempted from all taxation until the same shall have been sold and conveyed by said company"; the court having held that the Barney contract was in effect a conveyance.

The case was appealed to the supreme court, was submitted at the October term of 1888 without argument and re-argued May 24, 1889. A motion by the plaintiff for another re-argument was denied June 3, 1889.

The lengthy opinion was to the effect that no penalties, interest, etc., could be assessed in this case against the land company, the company having had previously no opportunity to pay the original assessment. It was also held that the six-year statutes of limitation run against this land and therefore taxes could be collected for only six years. The matter was therefore remanded to the district court, to amend or modify its judgment so as to exclude or deduct therefrom all interest which was included in the amount of taxes as assessed and extended against these lands in 1886, also all penalties, and also all taxes barred by the statute of limitations. Accordingly the case went back to Judge Webber, who ordered that his judgment heretofore entered be vacated and "Ordered further that for the amount of taxes heretofore assessed and levied against said several pieces or parcels of land by the auditor of said county in the year 1886, for the year 1880, and all subsequent years, and now appearing on said delinquent lists, the said lands are liable, but not for any interest or penalties appearing thereon; and that the same is a lien," etc., and that, unless paid, the lands be sold, etc. On application of defendant the entry of judgment was stayed and the case again certified to the supreme court to determine whether taxes for the year 1880 not assessed until 1886 were barred by the statute of limitations previous to the filing of the delinquent list in January 1888 with the clerk of district court. The supreme court adhered to its previous decision in the Brown county cases that the taxes for 1880 were not barred.



The county therefore received taxes on the land in question, beginning with the year 1880, but no liabilities for penalties for non-payment were incurred before the assessment of 1886. (40 Minn., 512) (42 Minn., 181).

The case of the State of Minnesota *ex rel. George Holden vs. Village of Lamberton* created much interest in the wet and dry circles of the county in the day when that question did not occupy the commanding position in the thoughts of the people that it does today. It appeared that an election was held at Lamberton in March, 1887, and that the "No license" ballots exceeded the license ballots by one. In June following the city council recanvassed the vote, declared that one "No license" ballot was illegal, that the vote was therefore a tie, and consequently not against license. Licenses were accordingly granted. The case was brought before the supreme court on a writ of certiorari.

The court decided that: "The action of a village council in recanvassing the votes cast three months before, at an election under the local option law (such recanvassing not being a part of the election proceedings), is wholly unauthorized and without effect, and the writ of certiorari will not be allowed for the purpose of bringing it up for review.

"The granting of a license by the village council to sell intoxicating liquor is not an act of a judicial character for which such a writ will be granted.

"Courts will not review the action of public officials at the suit of an individual who has no peculiar interest therein.

"Therefore, the respondents' (the village officials) motion to quash the writ is granted." (37 Minn. 362.)

The misfortune of Amasa Tower in connection with his administration of the office of county treasurer came before the Supreme court, May 20, 1881, in an appeal from Judge Cox in the case of the board of county commissioners of Redwood county vs. Amasa Tower and his bondsmen. On the night of May 27, 1879, burglars broke into the court house and stole \$1,099.66, consisting of county funds in Tower's custody, plus \$50 which was a part of the state land fund. The county sued Tower and his bondsmen for the amount, and Tower secured a verdict from a jury. Tower and his bondsmen then filed an appeal against an order granting a new trial. The higher court held that Tower and his bondsmen were liable to the county for the full amount minus the \$50, which was a part of the state land fund and for which he was responsible to the state. The order granting a new trial was therefore affirmed. Tower gave up his farm and all his property and went to the Dakotas where he homesteaded a piece of land in an effort to start life anew. He was there struck by lightning and instantly killed. (28 Minn. 45.)

Michael M. Madigan, for many years a member of the Red-



wood county bar, former county attorney and former county superintendent of schools, served a term in the state penitentiary charged with perjury. His trial, his conviction, and his subsequent efforts to have the records of his conviction set aside attracted state wide attention and was twice considered by the Supreme Court of the state.

Madigan was indicted by the grand jury on November 18, 1893, for the crime of perjury in swearing before a notary public on April 5, 1893, to an affidavit stating that he was attorney for Peter N. Romnes and that Halver T. Helgeson and Ole H. Mogan were indebted to Romnes in the sum of \$500. Helgeson and Mogan were partners, dealing in merchandise at Belview, and were insolvent and applied for advice to Madigan who was an attorney practicing at Redwood Falls. He recommended them to make an assignment under Laws 1881, chapter 148, and over-looking laws 1889, chapter 30, amending that statute, had them make a note to Romnes for \$500 antedated April 27, 1892, due November 1, 1892, on which he brought suit in Romnes' name April 5, 1893, and made this affidavit for and obtained a writ of attachment. They then assigned. They owed Romnes nothing and he never employed Madigan. The place of trial upon the indictment was on Madigan's motion changed to Brown county and he was on January 27, 1894, found guilty and sentenced to confinement at hard labor in the state prison at Stillwater for a term of three years and three months. (57 Minn. 425.)

He petitioned for a new trial and the Supreme Court denied the appeal and affirmed his sentence. Upon his release from prison at the expiration of his sentence, Madigan returned to Redwood Falls and resumed the practice of law, and shortly thereafter, still feeling that his conviction was unjust, brought a proceeding to have the judgment of his conviction reviewed and set aside. The matter was heard before Judge Webber, then judge of the district court, and by him denied. Madigan then appealed to the Supreme Court where the ruling of the lower court was affirmed. (State vs. Madigan, 66 Minn. 10.) Thereafter and upon such affirmation the state bar association filed charges against Madigan asking for his disbarment, and he was thereupon disbarred from the practice of law in this state. He then moved to Seattle, Washington, applied for admission to the bar of that state, which application was granted, and he there resumed the practice of law, remaining there for some five years and until his death about 1905.

William H. Hawk, clerk of court, was indicted by the grand jury June 16, 1880, charged with embezzlement. The action was dismissed December 11, 1882. Hawk was charged with misappropriating some funds deposited with him by a private citizen. It was proven that as an official of the county, he was not the

proper depository for the money and therefore on this technicality he escaped responsibility for his use of the funds. He escaped criminal responsibility for converting money to his own use.

The failure of the Citizens State Bank of Redwood Falls was the cause of several law suits, among which was that of the board of county commissioners against the Citizens State Bank of Redwood Falls and others. This action was brought on a bond given May 2 1894, by the defendant bank as a depository of county funds, pursuant to the provisions of G. S. 1894, sections 730, 731. The bond, after reciting that the bank had been duly designated as a depository of the funds of the county for the term of two years from the date thereof, and had agreed to pay interest thereon at 2 per cent, per annum, on monthly balances, was conditioned that it—"Shall well and truly credit such interest on such monthly balances to said county, and shall well and truly hold such funds, with accrued interest, subject to draft and payment at all times on demand, and shall well and truly pay over on demand, according to law, all of said funds which shall be deposited in said bank pursuant to said designation and said statutes aforesaid, and all of the interest so to be credited."

During the life of the bond the bank became insolvent, and made an assignment for the benefit of its creditors. At this time it was indebted to the county for county funds deposited with it in the sum of \$3,642.74 which not having been paid on demand, is sought to be recovered from the sureties on the bond. The court directed a verdict in favor of the sureties upon the evidence, which disclosed the following state of facts: The bank had been designated depository of county funds for the two years immediately preceding, and as such was indebted to the county in the sum of \$5,341.79 for moneys deposited with it during that term. This first term being about to expire, and a second term, under a new designation, about to begin, for which a new bond was to be executed, the county treasurer and the officers of the bank made an arrangement by which the former drew his check on the bank for the amount of the balance, and received in exchange therefor a draft on New York for an equal amount, with the understanding that he should never present or forward it for payment, but should hold it until after the new bond was delivered and approved, and then redeposit it to the credit of the county. Defendant bank had no funds in the hands of the drawee with which to meet this draft, and as a matter of fact, if it had been presented for payment, it would have been dishonored. This arrangement was carried out, and on May 9 the county treasurer returned the draft to the bank, which credited the county with the amount as a deposit of that date of so much money.

The account of the county was kept in the form of an open account, the same as that of any depositor, except, of course,

that monthly balances were struck for the purpose of computing the interest to be credited to the county. Subsequently, from time to time, the county made deposits aggregating \$14,618.16, and during the same time drew out various sums aggregating \$16,317.21, leaving the balance due the county (including the \$5,341.79) at the time the bank failed, \$3,642.74.

In the suit before the district court a verdict was rendered in favor of the defendants on various technical grounds and a new trial denied. The Supreme Court found that the \$5,341.79 due on the account at the end of the first term had been fully discharged by the subsequent payments, and the balance of \$3,642.74, due when the bank failed, was properly referable and chargeable to moneys deposited during the second term, for which the defendants were liable on their bond. Hence the court erred in directing a verdict in their favor. The order was reversed, and a new trial ordered. (67 Minn. 236.)

### JUSTICE COURTS.

A study of the justice courts is a most interesting subject, especially regarding their proceedings in the early days. Such a study, however, is beyond the scope of this work. In the days of the earliest settlers, the justice courts were flooded with many suits brought by irresponsible persons for spite purposes. To correct this evil, county commissioners on March 2, 1868, ordered that any persons bringing suit before any justice in the county should first give security for the cost. This resulted in a decided decrease in the number of justice cases heard in the county in the next few years.

### MUNICIPAL COURT.

The city charter of Redwood Falls, approved by the legislature, April 1, 1891, provided for a municipal court. H. D. Baldwin was appointed judge of this court and held his first session in June, 1891. He held his last session early in 1895. In a case early in that year, I. M. Olsen, now judge of this district, then a practicing attorney of Redwood Falls, raised the question of the legality of the court. The charter had passed the legislature by the necessary majority, but the vote lacked being two-thirds of the members of the legislature. By constitutional provision, a court can not be established in this state by less than two-thirds vote of the legislature, consequently, though the charter was perfectly binding and legal, the establishment of the municipal court was not. The legislature being in session when Judge Olsen discovered this defect, chapter 229 of the General Laws of 1895, was accordingly passed. This act which, with the exception of the

matter of appeal, was almost an exact duplicate of the municipal court enactment in the Redwood Falls charter was at once passed. D. A. Stuart, appointed municipal judge by the governor, held his first session in April, 1895. He held until the next election when H. D. Baldwin again became the judge, taking office in January, 1896. He was succeeded in January, 1899, by Joseph Chadderdon who served until the summer of 1902, when he died. He was succeeded in turn by A. R. A. Laudon, who was appointed by the governor and served until January, 1911, when he was succeeded by the present judge, Finley A. Gray. The municipal court has the same criminal jurisdiction as a justice court and civil jurisdiction up to \$500. Alfred C. Dolliff is the special municipal judge.

### PROBATE COURTS.

The list of the probate judges will be found in this work in the chapter entitled "County Officers and Buildings." The probate affairs of this county have been administered with prudence, and while a vast amount of cases have been handled, comparatively few have been appealed to the higher courts.

### APPEALED CASES.

The following cases from Redwood county have been passed upon by the Supreme Court.

State vs. Winona & St. Peter Land Co., 21 Minn. 315. George P. Wilson for the state, Wilson and Taylor for the defendant. Appeal from Hanscombe. Order affirmed.

John A. Willard vs. Board of County Commissioners of Redwood County, 22 Minn. 61. M. G. Willard for appellant, M. E. Powell and Erwin & Pierce for respondent. Appealed from Hanscome. Reversed.

Ada M. Pickett vs. Rufus S. Pickett, 27 Minn. 299. Frank L. Morrill for appellant. Appealed from Cox. Judgment reversed.

Sherman P. Terryll vs. Samuel E. Bailey, 27 Minn. 304. Baldwin, Miller & Morrill for appellant, Alfred Wallin for respondent. Appealed from Cox. Order reversed.

James M. Hillebert vs. Alva J. Porter, 28 Minn. 496. Lewis & Lislie for appellant, Chas. R. Davis & Sumner Ladd for respondent. Appealed from Cox. Judgment affirmed.

Board of County Commissioners of Redwood County vs. Amasa Tower and others, 28 Minn. 45. Baldwin, Miller & Morrill for appellants, Alfred Wallin for respondent. Appealed from Cox. Order affirmed.

State ex. rel. Emma Lee vs. I. M. Schaaek, 28 Minn. 358. Alfred Wallin for appellant, Frank L. Morrill for respondent. Appealed from Cox. Judgment reversed.

Samuel D. Coykendall vs. Asa May and others, 29 Minn. 162. A. B. Jackson for appellants, D. M. Thorp & B. F. Webber for respondent. Appealed from Cox. Remanded. Plaintiffs appeal from order of Oct. 21, 1881, affirmed at same time.

John J. Schoregge and another vs. Bishop Gordon and others, 29 Minn. 367. Seagrave & Smith for defendants, Brown & Wiswell & Wm. Schoregge for plaintiffs. Appealed from Cox. Affirmed.

Geo. Ross and another vs. Henry Evans, 30 Minn. 206. D. M. Thorp for appellants, M. M. Madigan for respondent. Appealed from Baldwin. Order affirmed.

N. A. Carlson vs. Hiram Small, 32 Minn. 439. M. M. Madigan for defendant, Redding & Laing for plaintiff. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

C. P. Carlson vs. Hiram Small, 32 Minn. 492. M. M. Madigan for defendant, Redding & Laing for plaintiff. Appealed from Vanderburgh. Order affirmed.

Elias Bedal vs. Cyrus B. Spurr, 33 Minn. 207. D. M. Thorp and J. M. Thompson for appellant, John Lind for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

Chas. Chester and another vs. P. L. Pierce and wife, 33 Minn. 370. M. M. Madigan for appellants, D. M. Thorp for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

D. M. Thorp vs. Joseph Lorenz, 34 Minn. 350. D. M. Thorp and T. M. Quarton for appellant, M. Madigan for respondent. Judge not given. Appeal dismissed.

C. Aultman & Co. vs. Knud Olson, 34 Minn. 450. P. A. Foster and M. M. Madigan for appellant, Baldwin & Ward & J. M. Thompson for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

Elias Dillon and others vs. Chas. Porter and others, 36 Minn. 341. Chas. C. Wilson and Geo. W. Somerville for appellants, M. M. Madigan and J. M. Thompson for respondents. Appealed from Berry. Order reversed.

Peter Ortt vs. M. & St. L. Ry. Co., 36 Minn. 396. J. D. Springer for appellant, E. St. Julien Cox for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order reversed and a new trial awarded.

State ex. rel. Geo. Holden vs. Village of Lamberton, 37 Minn. 362. Geo. W. Sommerville for relator, J. M. Thompson for respondent. Dickinson, judge. The respondent's motion to quash the writ is granted.

County of Redwood vs. Winona & St. Peter Land Co., 40 Minn. 512. Moses E. Clapp, attorney general, and M. M. Madigan for plaintiff, John M. Gillman and Towney & Randall and John H. Dillon for defendant. Appealed from Webber. Remanded.

J. R. Thompson vs. H. T. Winter, 7042 Minn. 121. John H.

Bowers for appellant, J. M. Thompson for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order reversed.

County of Redwood vs. Winona & St. Peter Land Co., 42 Minn. 181. Mose E. Clapp, attorney general, for plaintiff, J. M. Gilman and Tawney & Randall for defendant. Appealed from Webber. Judgment affirmed.

State of Minnesota vs. Clifton Holden, 42 Minn. 350. Chas. C. Wilson for appellant, Moses E. Clapp, attorney general, and H. N. Childs and M. M. Madigan for State. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

State vs. Redwood Falls Building & Loan Association, 45 Minn. 154. M. M. Madigan for State, John H. Bowers for defendant. Appealed from Webber. The determination of district court is affirmed.

State of Minnesota vs. William Rose, 47 Minn. 47. Erwin & Wellington & F. S. Brown for appellant, Moses E. Clapp attorney general, H. W. Childs and M. M. Madigan for State. Appealed from Webber. Order and judgment affirmed and case remanded for further proceedings.

E. G. Comstock vs. Niels C. Frederickson, 51 Minn. 350. Munn, Boyesen & Thygeson and John Gillman for appellant, H. D. Baldwin and M. M. Madigan for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order reversed.

Alfred Shrimpton & Son vs. F. W. Philbrick, 53 Minn. 366. L. G. Davis and J. A. Eckstein for appellant, M. M. Madigan for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

State of Minnesota vs. Michael M. Madigan, 57 Minn. 425. H. J. Peck and Joseph A. Eckstein for appellant, H. W. Childs, attorney general, Geo. B. Edgerton, his assistant, and S. L. Pierce for State. Appealed from Webber. The order appealed from should be affirmed. So ordered.

John Webber vs. Winona & St. Peter Ry. Co., 63 Minn. 66. Brown & Abbott for appellant, Frank Clague for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

James L. Byram vs. James Aiken, 65 Minn. 87. S. L. Pierce and John Lind, for appellant, John H. Bowers and Sommerville & Olson for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order reversed.

Jenny Cain vs. E. N. Mead, 66 Minn. 195. John H. Bowers and Young & Mercer for appellant, Somerville & Olson for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

Joseph Schweinfurter vs. Herman G. Schmahl, 69 Minn. 418. W. J. McLeod for appellant, Baldwin & Patterson for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Judgment affirmed.

Board of County Commissioners of Redwood County vs. Citizens Bank of Redwood Falls and others, 67 Minn. 236. H. W. Childs, attorney general, George B. Edgerton, assistant attorney general, Arthur M. Wickwill and Frank Clague for appellant, B.

H. Schriber and Somerville & Olson for respondents. Order reversed and new trial ordered. Appealed from Webber.

Justin F. Jones vs. Northern Trust Co., 67 Minn. 410. John M. Rees for appellant, Carman N. Smith for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order reversed.

Lizzie H. Francois vs. Robert P. Lewis, 68 Minn. 408. Bishop H. Schriber for appellant, Somerville & Olson for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

Mary Scanlon vs. John Grimmer and others, 71 Minn. 351. S. L. Pierce for appellant, J. A. Sawyer for respondents. Appealed from Webber. Judgment reversed and new trial ordered.

William P. Abbott vs. Ole O. Moltested and another, 74 Minn. 293. Baldwin & Patterson and Palmer & Beek for appellant, A. C. Dolliff for respondents. Appealed from Webber. The judgment of the trial court is reversed, and it is directed to enter judgment on the findings of fact in favor of plaintiffs for the relief demanded in complaint.

E. E. Harriott vs. C. L. Holmes, 77 Minn. 245. D. A. Stuart for appellant, E. E. Harriott, pro se. Appealed from Webber. Order reversed and new trial granted.

McCormick Harvesting Machine Co. vs. John H. Belfany, 78 Minn. 370. Frank Clague and Somerville & Olson for appellant, Seward & Burchard for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

State vs. Lester Rollins, 80 Minn. 216. D. A. Stuart for appellant, W. B. Douglas, attorney general, C. W. Somerby, assistant attorney general, Frank Clague, county attorney, for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

F. W. Orth vs. C. A. Pease, 81 Minn. 374. John H. Bowers and W. A. McDowell for appellant, Baldwin & Howard and Albert Hauser for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

A. J. Finnegan vs. Camile A. Brown and others, 81 Minn. 508. S. & O. Kipp for appellant, Somerville & Olson for respondents. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

Herman G. Schmahl and another vs. Walter A. Thompson and another, 82 Minn. 78. Stuart & Glover and Joseph Chadderdon for appellants, John H. Bowers, Baldwin & Howard and W. M. Milchrist for respondents. Appealed from Webber. Order reversed.

T. C. Shove vs. E. J. Martine, 85 Minn. 29. Pierce & Harriott for appellant, Bowers & Howard and Somerville & Olsen for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

Jane Parsons vs. Hannah C. Vining, 85 Minn. 37. A. C. Dolliff for appellant, Bowers and Howard for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Judgment affirmed.

Fred Watschke vs. Joel P. Thompson and others, 85 Minn. 105.



W. A. McDowell for appellant, Albert Hauser and Somerville & Olsen for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

G. E. Holden vs. Orlando B. Turrell and others, 86 Minn. 214. Bowers & Howard and H. D. Baldwin for appellant, J. A. Sawyer for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

Henrietta A. Clark vs. Albert E. Clark, 86 Minn. 249. Bower & Howard for appellant, A. C. Dolliff for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Judgment reversed, new trial granted.

Mary M. Birum vs. Isaac Johnson, 87 Minn. 362. A. E. Clark for appellant, Bowers & Howard for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

Richard Peach vs. Ed. Reed, 87 Minn. 375. Elinor Hoidale and Pierce & Harriott for appellant, George T. Olsen and Somerville & Olsen for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Judgment affirmed.

Nessie Margaret McKittrick vs. William F. Cahoon, 89 Minn. 383. Bowers & Howard for appellant, M. E. Mathews for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order reversed and case remanded.

J. H. Queal & Co. vs. B. F. Bulen and another, 89 Minn. 477. Wilson Borst for appellant, Somerville & Olsen for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order appealed from affirmed.

C. Fred Thompson vs. C. O. Borg, 90 Minn. 209. Pierce & Harriott for appellant, Bowers & Howard for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Judgment reversed and new trial granted.

A. E. Finnegan vs. Camile A. Brown and others, 90 Minn. 397. S. & O. Kipp for appellant, Somerville & Olsen for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Judgment reversed.

Jane A. Phillipps and another vs. Knud E. Mo and others, 91 Minn. 311. Thomas Hessian, C. R. Davis and P. J. McLaughlin for appellants, Somerville & Olsen for respondents. Appealed from Webber. Affirmed without prejudice to plaintiff's right to apply for a modification of the findings.

State vs. E. Boehm, 92 Minn. 374. W. J. Donahower, attorney general, and C. T. Howard, county attorney, for plaintiff. A. C. Dolliff for defendant. Appealed from Webber. Case remanded for further proceedings in the court below.

Lawrence King vs. Coe Commission Company, 92 Minn. 52. Bowers & Howard and Wilson & Mercer for appellant, George D. Emery for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

John A. Lucy vs. R. R. Freeman, 93 Minn. 274. Charles R. Fowler, Fred B. Dodge and Korn & Johnson for appellant, Somerville & Olsen, Clague & Emerson, and Wm. G. Owens for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order reversed, new trial granted.

George A. DuToit vs. Village of Belview, 94 Minn. 128. A. C. Dolliff for appellant, W. C. Odell for respondent. Appealed from

Webber. We discover no reason for disagreeing with the trial court, and the judgment appealed from is affirmed.

Jane A. Phillips and another vs. Knud E. Mo and others, 96 Minn. 42. Fred B. Phillips and Ernest S. Cary for appellants, Somerville & Olsen for respondents. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

State ex rel. Jane A. Phillips and others vs. B. F. Webber, 96 Minn. 348. Writ of mandamus directed to the judge of the district court for the county of Redwood. Fred B. Phillips and Ernest C. Cary for relators, Somerville & Olsen for respondent. Ruling of learned trial judge was correct and that the order to show cause must be discharged. So ordered.

State ex rel. Fred B. Phillips vs. District Court of Redwood County, 98 Minn. 136. Fred B. Phillips, pro se., Somerville & Olsen for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Writ discharged.

Henry Jennings vs. August Rohde and another, 99 Minn. 335. Albert Hauser and Somerville & Olsen for appellant, Thomas E. Davis and A. C. Dolliff for respondents. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

A. W. Edwards vs. Michael Morley, 100 Minn. 542. A. C. Dolliff for appellant, Frank Clague for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

John Casserly vs. James J. Morrow and others, 101 Minn. 16. James A. Kellogg for appellants, C. W. Gilmore and Joe Kirby for respondent. Appealed from Webber. Order affirmed.

George L. Evans vs. City of Redwood Falls and others, 103 Minn. 314. A. C. Dolliff for appellants, A. R. A. Laudon and C. T. Howard for respondent. Appealed from Olsen. Order of the trial affirmed.

State ex rel. John H. Ross vs. George Posz and others, 106 Minn. 197. Somerville & Hauser for appellants, Wm. G. Owens, Albert H. Enerson and Frank Clague for respondents. Appealed from Olsen. Order reversed.

Horace L. Harmon vs. Chicago & North Western Railway Company, 107 Minn. 479; Josephine Harmon vs. Chicago & North Western Railway Company, 107 Minn. 479. Brown, Abbott & Somers for appellant, C. T. Howard and T. M. Quarton for respondent. Appealed from Olsen. Reversed and new trial granted.

Nicholas Munsch vs. Julius Stelter and another, 109 Minn. 403. William G. Owens and Somerville & Hauser for appellant, C. T. Howard for respondents. Appealed from Olson. Affirmed.

Halguin Erickson vs. Revere Elevator Company, 110 Minn. 443. A. Frederickson and Frank Clague for appellant, D. A. Stuart for respondent. Appealed from Olsen. Order affirmed.

Kate Clark vs. Albert E. Clark, 114 Minn. 22. Somerville & Hauser and John A. Dalzell for appellant, C. T. Howard for respondent. Appealed from Olsen. Reversed and new trial granted.

Wherland Electric Company vs. A. C. Burmeister, 122 Minn. 110. A. R. A. Laudon and Frank Clague for appellant, W. R. Werring, Henry Deutsch and Walter S. Whiton for respondents. Appealed from Olsen. Order affirmed.

County of Redwood vs. City of Minneapolis, 126 Minn. 512. Daniel Fish, city attorney, and W. G. Compton, assistant city attorney, for appellant, Albert H. Enersen, county attorney, and John F. Bernhagen for respondent. Appealed from Waite. Order affirmed.

Frank Schulz vs. Lewis Duel, 128 Minn. 213. Frank Clague and T. Otto Streissguth for appellant, Albert H. Enersen for respondent. Appealed from Olsen. Order reversed.

Herman Trebesch vs. Christian Trebesch and another, 130 Minn. 368. Somsen, Dempsey & Mueller for appellant, Moonan & Moonan and Albert H. Enersen for respondent. Appealed from Olsen. Judgment affirmed.

**Authorship.** This chapter has been compiled from various sources with the assistance of Alfred C. Dolliff, and by him the final draft has been revised, amplified and edited, and numerous additions made. M. E. Powell and Frank Clague, the oldest members of the Redwood county bar, have been consulted, as have been W. G. Weldon, clerk of court; C. V. Everett, county treasurer; and A. R. A. Laudon, judge of probate. The list of appealed cases has been prepared by Fred E. Person.

**Authority.** General and Special Laws of the Territory and State of Minnesota.

Reports of the Supreme Court of the State of Minnesota.

Court Records of Redwood County in the custody of the clerk of court of Redwood county.

Records of the Municipal Court of Redwood Falls, in the custody of the judge and clerk of the Municipal Court of Redwood Falls.

The Northwestern Gazetteer, 1876-1916, published by R. L. Polk & Co.

Personal testimony of attorneys and old settlers.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

**REDWOOD COUNTY VILLAGES.**

(By A. J. White)

Redwood county has fifteen incorporated villages, and one city. Redwood Falls was incorporated by act of the legislature, approved Feb. 18, 1876, and reincorporated as a city by act of the legislature approved April 1, 1891. Lamberton was incorporated by act of the legislature approved March 1, 1879; and Walnut Grove by act of the legislature approved March 3, 1879. Petitions for the incorporation of the other thirteen villages were presented to the county board on the dates given below, all being granted, and subsequently being favorably voted upon by the citizens of the respective villages: Morgan, Jan. 7, 1889; Sanborn, Oct. 6, 1891; Belview, Nov. 29, 1892; Vesta, Jan. 2, 1900; Revere, Jan. 2, 1900; Wabasso, April 23, 1900; Wanda, Dec. 18, 1900; Seaforth, Dec. 18, 1900; Delhi, Oct. 6, 1902; Lucan, Oct. 6, 1902; Milroy, Oct. 11, 1902; Clements, May 23, 1903; North Redwood, July 13, 1903.

There are eighteen platted townsites in Redwood county, filed with the register of deeds as follows: Redwood Falls, April 9, 1866; Walnut Grove, Sept. 10, 1874; Lamberton, Aug. 19, 1878; Morgan, Oct. 18, 1878; Sanborn, Oct. 10, 1881; Delhi, Sept. 1, 1884; North Redwood, Aug. 22, 1885; Revere, May 26, 1886; Belview May 21, 1889; Okawa (Seaforth), Oct. 20, 1899; Vesta, Oct. 20, 1899; Wabasso, Oct. 20, 1899; Wanda, Oct. 20, 1899; Clements, March 24, 1902; Milroy, March 27, 1902; Rowena, March 24, 1902; Wayburne, March 24, 1902; Lucan, March 27, 1902. In some instances the survey had been made fully a year before the filing. The dates are given in the histories of the separate villages. Seaforth, Vesta, Wabasso, Wanda, Clements, Milroy, Rowena, Wayburne and Lucan were platted by the Western Town Lot Co. Revere was platted by the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Co. H. W. Lamberton, who platted Lamberton, was the land commissioner of that company. The other villages were platted for private owners. The plats of Paxton and Riverside, laid out in the early days, have been abandoned.

The Western Town Lot Co. was incorporated in the interest of the Chicago & North Western Railway Co. for the purpose of securing the land needed for town sites, by subdividing and plating it, and placing the town lots on the market at reasonable rates, so that the settlers would not be at the mercy of the town lot speculators, and be obliged to pay inflated prices as is some-

times the case under private owners. All the proceeds secured from the sale of the lots reached the treasury of the railroad company.

When the census of 1880 was taken there were three incorporated villages in Redwood county: Redwood Falls, with a population of 981; Walnut Grove with a population of 153; and Lamberton, with a population of 149. In 1885, Redwood Falls had increased to 1,123; Lamberton had increased to 165; and Walnut Grove had decreased to 149. In 1890, the population of Redwood Falls was 1,238. Morgan had been incorporated and had become the second village in the county, with a population of 301. Lamberton had increased to 202; Walnut Grove had further decreased to 127. In 1895 Redwood Falls had increased to 1,589, of which the first ward had 784 and the second ward 805. Lamberton had more than doubled its population, had passed Morgan, and with a population of 459 had become the second place in size in the county, a position it has since maintained. Morgan had increased to 358. Sanborn had been incorporated, and had a population of 247. Bellview had been incorporated and had a population of 185. Walnut Grove had decreased to 117, and from its position as the second village in the county in 1880, was now the smallest.

In 1900 Redwood Falls had a population of 1,661, of whom 877 were in the first ward and 748 in the second ward. Lamberton had increased to 624. Morgan had made a big stride and had increased to 592. Walnut Grove had increased its population nearly four times, and was the fourth place in size in the county, with 447 people. Sanborn had increased to 351, and Belview to 254. Wabasso had been incorporated and had 178 people, and Vesta had been incorporated and had 214 people. In 1905, eight new villages had been created. The places previously created had all shown an increase except Walnut Grove, which had again fallen back. The figures for that year are: Redwood Falls, 1,806 (first ward, 871; second ward, 935); Lamberton, 657; Morgan, 608; Sanborn, 549; Walnut Grove, 392; Wabasso, 388; Belview, 318; Vesta, 286; Seaforth, 195; Wanda, 179; Delhi, 174; Milroy, 173; Revere, 171; North Redwood, 126; Clements, 107; Lucan, 89.

North Redwood, Clements and Lucan had increased in 1910, all the rest of the urban places had decreased. The population for that year was as follows: Redwood Falls, 1,666 (first ward, 834; second ward, 832); Lamberton, 652; Morgan, 553; Sanborn, 462; Walnut Grove, 366; Wabasso, 343; Belview, 290; Sanborn, 243; Delhi, 159; Seaforth, 158; North Redwood, 143; Milroy, 137; Revere, 134; Clements, 132; Wanda, 129; Lucan 98.

There are no official census figures for 1915, no state census being taken that year. It is believed, however, that all the villages have increased in population to some extent since 1910. Redwood Falls has probably increased about 600, Lamberton

about 400, Walnut Grove 250, Morgan 200, and the others somewhat.

Charles W. Howe's "Directory of Redwood County" contains the result of careful investigation, made by Mr. Howe in person, or through representatives living in the various localities. He gives the present population of the villages as follows: Redwood Falls, 2,144; Lamberton, 1,064; Morgan, 735; Walnut Grove, 622; North Redwood, 174; Clements, 146; Sanborn 544; Wabasso, 467; Belview, 364; Vesta, 309; Wanda, 209; Delhi, 196; Revere, 182; Milroy, 177; Seaforth, 146; Lucan, 143.

Redwood Falls was chosen as the site of a village by reason of its excellent location and its waterpower. The other villages have all grown up around the locations designated by the railroads as suitable station points. The sites are therefore ones situated conveniently for rural shipping places, and were selected arbitrarily by the railroad officials with such a purpose in view. All the urban settlements depend entirely on the rural districts for their support and maintenance, as there is practically no manufacturing, except of dairy products, in the entire county.

### REDWOOD FALLS.

Redwood Falls is picturesquely located on the high banks of the Redwood river, about one mile south of the Minnesota river. It is the terminus of what is now known as the Sleepy Eye-Redwood Falls branch of the Chicago & North Western, but which when built in 1878 was called the Minnesota Valley division of the Winona & St. Peter.

The rivers, gorges and bluffs here present some of the most beautiful scenery in the Northwest, while north, east, south and west stretches some of the finest agricultural land in Minnesota.

The trees set out in the early days give the city the appearance of a settlement set in a beautiful grove, while the nearby parks have given to Redwood Falls the justly deserved title of "The Scenic City." The streets are well kept, the public buildings are unusually sightly, the churches are noted for their splendid architecture, the business houses are modern and progressive, the homes are attractively built and surrounded with lawns and shrubbery. From the earliest days, the city had been noted for its religious and educational activities, and the clean moral atmosphere of its social life.

Among the public buildings are the courthouse, the city hall, the Carnegie library, the jail and the armory. The municipal improvements include, aside from the parks, an extensive waterworks and sewer system, a splendid electric light system, a well-kept bathhouse, and extensive paving, while a public heating plant is now being installed.

There is a good band here, organized in 1900 under the name of the Scenic City Band, and also a good orchestra. The military company, Co. L, Second Regiment, M. N. G., is now on the Texas border.

The high school, recently remodelled, is as good as any of its size in the state. The graded school building is substantial, well equipped for its purpose, and surrounded with a public playground. Along the shores of Lake Redwood many private parks are maintained in the rear of some magnificent private residences.

There are three banks, two newspapers, two moving picture theatres, and many garages. A Commercial club maintains quarters in the armory, and the Automobile club has done much to add to the reputation of the city.

The parks consist of Lake Redwood park and Redwood Falls park, both owned by the city, and the extensive Ramsey State park, owned by the commonwealth.

The present slightly city hall of brick was constructed at a cost of some \$7,000 in the summer of 1915, replacing a small fire house which previously stood on the site. It is equipped with a bell and a siren fire alarm. Aside from housing the excellent fire equipment, it provides a meeting hall and offices for various county officers.

A history of Redwood Falls would be incomplete without mentioning its incomparable system of waterworks and sewers. The water plant was installed in 1892, and consisted of four miles of 4, 6, 8 and 10-inch mains, a water tower with a capacity of 92,000 gallons, giving a gravity pressure of 47 pounds; a power building, 40x80, in which are installed one Duplex non-condensing Gordon pump, 2,000,000 gallons capacity, one 80-horsepower Springfield boiler, with foundation and piped for a duplicate set of boiler and pumps, should necessity arise for more power. The station is 175 feet lower and one-half mile west of the tower, on one of the most beautiful reaches of the Redwood river. The source of supply is a number of springs that are collected in a gallery and are conducted to a receiving reservoir, from whence it is pumped to the tower as needed for fire purposes. Water is taken from the river and forced direct into mains, the tower being shut off by a combination electric and air valve. The spring water is strongly impregnated with magnesia with a trace of iron; it is certainly the most wholesome water to be found anywhere in this part of the state, as no case of contagious disease has ever occurred where the people have used city water exclusively. It is absolutely free from all animal life. Since its installation the system has been gradually extended, and the extension is still going on. The principal parts of the city are covered, and as the city grows, the system is most admirably adapted to expansion.

The sewer system was started in 1894, and covered the retail



district; in 1897, under the direction of Superintendent G. L. Parkhill, the system was extended into the residence district, and tapped the jail, courthouse and public schools. Like the waterworks system, the sewer system is being gradually extended and expanded.

The fire protection of Redwood Falls is of the best. An excellent waterworks system, a good fire company, first-class equipment, and a large bell and siren whistle, all combine to give a feeling of security to the property owner. The city has been quite free from large fires, the two fires which destroyed the Francois building, and the fire which swept out the buildings west of the Francois block, being the largest.

In the earliest days, a bucket brigade was organized. For a time this brigade wore no distinctive uniforms, but later firemen's shirts, caps and belts, worn with dark trousers and shoes, gave them a natty and conspicuous appearance. With the growth of the village, new equipment was gradually acquired. A hook and ladder truck and a chemical engine were purchased, and a fire house erected on the site of the city hall.

July 26, 1895, the city having been incorporated, the fire department was reorganized with F. W. Philbrick as chief. After him came A. W. Badger, then Henry Beuchner and then C. W. Mead. The next chief was C. V. Everett, who is still a member of the department, and has been connected with it since 1881. After Chief Everett came M. O. Biram, followed by Joe Corbett, the present chief. G. A. Schildknecht is secretary, and Emil Kuenzli is treasurer.

The department is entirely voluntary, and consists of a hook and ladder company and two hose companies. Each hose truck has some 800 feet of hose and ten chemical fire extinguishers. The city is now considering purchasing a motor fire truck. The fire apparatus is housed in the beautiful new city hall erected in 1915.

Electricity is furnished the city from the power plant owned by A. C. Burmeister, erected in 1909. From this plant will also be furnished the heat for the public heating system recently installed. Mr. Burmeister came to Redwood Falls in 1899, purchased the old mill, and a few years later installed a dynamo and began furnishing the city with electricity. The present dam was completed in 1902. A twenty-four-hour service is furnished the patrons, and the streets, business houses and private residences are well lighted.

Redwood Falls people are justly proud of their schools, which easily are superior to any in this section of the state. The two buildings, with their splendid systems of forced ventilation and automatic temperature regulation, furnish ideal conditions for school work.

The first school in the stockade was taught by Julia A. Williams of LeSeuer in the fall and winter of 1864. Her pupils were the Honner, Thompson, Fosgate and McPhail children. Martha Watson, later Mrs. Martha Webster, was the next teacher, and a small school house was erected in 1866 just west of the site of the garage on Second street. Miss Etta Tippery followed, while Edward March and Colonel Chandler each taught about this time.

In 1869 a school house was erected at the corner of Chestnut and Jefferson streets. Mr. Kaufman and his sister, Miss Kaufman, were in charge of the school until 1873. Miss Moyer (later Mrs. Fowler of Spokane) followed, and the district was organized as an independent district in 1873. The next year three principals succeeded one another—Mr. Grannis, Mr. Trinnan and E. J. Lewis—with Adelle Chapman (Mrs. J. B. Robinson) in charge of the lower department. Mrs. Lewis taught with Mr. Lewis the following year. J. B. Gaston came in 1877, and Mrs. Gaston taught at the same time. Mr. Gaston is a physician in Colorado Springs at present. The old warehouse belonging to Mr. Crump was secured for an additional room in 1877. The Redwood Dream theater is now located on about the same spot.

On May 11, 1878, \$1,000 was voted for a new school site, but nearly five years elapsed before bonds were voted for a new school building. Several very exciting meetings were held to vote bonds previous to Jan. 25, 1883, but on this date \$10,000 in bonds were voted. However, the board was forced to call special meetings to vote additional money to complete the building, making \$16,500 in bonds issued. This formed what is now the west portion of the grade building. R. L. Marshman was elected the first principal.

The Redwood Falls high school began holding commencement exercises in 1886, since which time a class has been graduated every year with the exception of 1881 and 1898, at which times another year's work was added to the course. The smallest classes were those of 1892 and 1901, consisting of two each.

In the spring and summer of 1905 a site was purchased and \$21,000 in bonds used for the erection of the present high school building. At various times during these years the crowding of the school necessitated the use of other outside rooms than have been indicated. In the summer of 1916 extensive alterations and improvements were made, and the capacity greatly enlarged, making it the best high school building in any place of this size in the state.

Antiquity lodge, No. 91, A. F. & A. M., was organized March 29, 1871, with eight charter members: F. V. Hotchkiss, W. M.; William D. Flinn, S. W.; James McMillan, J. W.; Lafayette F. Robinson, treasurer; William C. March, secretary; Robert Watson, S. D.; Edward A. Chandler, J. D. The charter was received in January, 1872. The lodge has been a prosperous one throughout its entire

history, and owns a finely equipped hall in the brick block on Mill street. This city is the home of an unusual number of thirty-second degree Masons. The Eastern Star is also in a thriving condition.

Redwood chapter, No. 34, R. A. M., was organized March 22, 1879, with nine charter members: W. F. Dickinson, H. P.; W. P. Dunnington, K.; S. S. Martin, S.; F. J. Peabody, C. H.; James McMillan, P. S.; M. E. Powell, R. A. C.; J. J. Coyle, G. M., 3d V.; Robert Watson, G. M., 2d V.; E. A. Chandler, G. M., 1st V. The commandery was organized in 1892.

Redwood lodge, No. 68, I. O. O. F., was organized February 18, 1879, with five charter members: C. W. Tousley, N. G.; W. M. Knapp, secretary and treasurer; A. D. Holliday, V. G. G. W. Whittet and William Knapp of this city are the surviving charter members. The records show that ex-Gov. John Lind was present and officiated as secretary at the first meeting. The early growth of the lodge was slow, the membership being less than a dozen for several years. Oct. 10, 1888, an encampment was instituted, which has grown until it has become the fifth largest in the state. The Rebecca Ladies' Auxiliary was established Feb. 12, 1887, and the canton on Nov. 26, 1903. The Odd Fellows own a splendid hall comprising the second floor of a brick block on Mill street.

Redwood Falls lodge, No. 42, K. of P., was organized July 12, 1887, with C. T. Ward as chancellor commander and Geo. L. Evans as keeper of the seals. The charter was granted Sept. 11, 1888, G. R. Pease, C. Fred Thompson, H. A. Baldwin and J. P. Cooper being among the charter members. The Pythian Sisters share with their brother Knights the use of their hall. This lodge was organized Sept. 29, 1897, Mesdames Aune, Hughes, Baldwin, Philbrick, Pease, Thompson, Ward, Lamberton and Ferris comprising the charter members. It is named Carine Temple in honor of Mrs. H. M. Aune.

Besides the lodges may be mentioned four very strong beneficiary orders: The M. W. A., established May 22, 1893; the M. B. A., organized Nov. 6, 1898; the A. O. U. W., which has one of the largest memberships in the city, and the Equitable Fraternal Union, which is also well established. Several other lodges also flourish here.

John S. Marsh post, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized on April 3, 1884, with thirty charter members. Charles George was the first commander. For a time recruiting was quite rapid, and the membership grew to considerable proportions, but of late years death has made heavy inroads into the ranks, and few can be found with the necessary qualifications for enlistment. The present membership is thirty-five. Memorial day is always one of the big days in Redwood Falls. Usually a speaker of national repute is secured to deliver the principal address, and then the

largest auditorium in the city is insufficient to accommodate the throngs. With the passing of the years the soldier boys have many of them grown too feeble to endure the strenuous march. In 1909 the custom was adopted of leaving to Co. L, M. N. G., the more active duties of the day, and the program was rendered in a very pleasing way.

Among the beautiful and useful public buildings to which the citizens of Redwood Falls point with pride is the Carnegie library, erected in 1904 at an approximate cost of \$10,000. The base of the structure is North Redwood granite, the superstructure being pressed brick. The building is open to the reading public seven days and five evenings each week. It is supported by taxation under the management of nine trustees chosen by the mayor. Elizabeth Connor ably officiates as librarian.

Redwood Falls is the center of an extensive telephone system. For some years the Bell company conducted a local telephone exchange in Redwood Falls. The business men, however, were somewhat dissatisfied with several phases of the service, and on January 14, 1909, incorporated the Redwood Falls Electric Telephone Co. The system was ready for service in September of that year, and the older system was soon eliminated. The incorporators of the company were: Chairman, F. W. Philbrick; vice chairman, A. C. Burmeister; secretary and treasurer, H. M. Aune; H. A. Baldwin, John P. Cooper, William H. Gold, William D. Lyons, A. D. Stewart and August Carrity. The present officers are: President, W. D. Lyons; vice president, A. C. Burmeister; secretary and treasurer, H. M. Aune. The directors are W. D. Lyons, F. W. Philbrick, A. C. Burmeister, August Carrity, John P. Cooper, A. D. Stewart and H. M. Aune.

The Redwood County Rural Telephone Company conducts a general local and long distance telephone business. It was incorporated April 20, 1902, and has its headquarters at Redwood Falls, with exchanges at Belview, Echo, Morgan, Vesta, Wabasso and Walnut Grove, and stations at Delhi and Clements. Connections are made with the Redwood Falls Electric Telephone Co., and with the Tri-State Telephone Co. and the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Co. The company has a capital of \$33,000. The first officers were: President, A. C. Miller; vice president, C. H. Winn; secretary and treasurer, A. D. Stewart. The first board of directors consisted of A. D. Stewart, A. C. Miller, W. H. Gold, Charles H. Winn, William Lindeman, H. G. Werder, George L. Evans, S. O. Mason and Robert Stewart. The present officers are: President, A. D. Stewart; vice president, H. A. Dreyer; secretary, J. M. Little.

Redwood Falls was first settled in 1864, when Col. Sampson R. B. McPhail, with the assistance of the soldiers patrolling the border, and possibly others, erected the old stockade. During

that summer, fall and winter six houses were erected inside the stockade, five of logs and one frame structure.

Previous to the building of the stockade, a government sawmill had been constructed at the falls of the Redwood, in 1855. A number of Indian cabins had also been erected in the vicinity by the government.

In the spring of 1865 the settlers began to locate on the village site outside of the stockade. The village gradually grew, but received a severe set-back during the grasshopper years, from which it did not recover until the railroad came through in 1878.

In 1878 when the Northwestern Gazetteer was issued, it described Redwood Falls as follows: "An incorporated village of 700 inhabitants, on the Redwood river, from which power is obtained to operate two flouring mills and a sawmill. The Presbyterians, Methodists, Christian, Episcopal and Catholic denominations all have churches here. There is an independent graded school. The Gazette, a weekly newspaper is published. Stages are operated daily to New Ulm, and to Yellow Medicine and Minnesota Falls, semi-weekly."

Although Redwood Falls is mentioned as the terminal branch station of the Chicago & North Western, it is probable that the description for the Gazetteer for that year was written before the railroad was actually completed. The business and professional activities shown that year are:

Bailey, S. E., Redwood Hotel; Baker & Byington, livery and sale stable; Baldwin, H. D., lawyer; Baldwin, H. D., & Co., grocers; Bank of Redwood Falls; Birum, Ener, lumber mill (North Redwood); Bowers, J. H., lawyer; Bronson, Rev. E. H. (Methodist); Bunch, S. T., furniture; Chapman, E. O., wagon-maker; Cook, A. M., & Sons, flour mill; Crouley Bros., grocers; Dobner & O'Hara, druggists; Dodge, Rev. H. A. (Presbyterian); Evans, W. M., physician; Flinn, W. D., physician; Flynn, Birney, land agent; Frost, Rev. A. P. (Christian); Gordon, Bishop, agricultural implements; Herriott, Wm. B., editor Gazette; Hitchcock, D. L., druggist; Hotchkiss, F. V., blacksmith; Hunter, Rev. E. G. (Episcopal); Jessup, John, grocer; Johnson, Benjamin, baker and grocer; Koch & Nevitt, butchers; Laird & Domberg, hardware; Lichtwark, Joseph, butcher; Lys, Henry, blacksmith; McCarthy, E. A., livery and sale stable; McMillan, James, general store; Offerman, Matt, saloon; O'Hara, F. M., saloon; Ojia, Mrs. S. H., milliner; Ortt & Northrup, Exchange Hotel; Peterson, A. J., blacksmith; Post, W. H., & Co., drugs and groceries; Powell, M. E., lawyer; Rockwell, R. W., hardware; Ruter & Cuff, flour mill; Sears, Moses, boot and shoemaker; Stickle & Wiltshire, general store; Swisher, W. A., hardware and tinshop; Tibbitts, Till, land agent; Tiffany, J. E., flour and feed; Truesdell, Levi, harnessmaker; Vilos, M., physician; Wallin, Alfred, lawyer; Wasson & Crooks, black-

smiths; Watson, Robert, express agent; Watton, David, surveyor and civil engineer; Watson, R. W., books, stationery and music.

In 1880 the business directory was as follows: American Express Co., W. C. Tyler, agent; Bailey House; Baker, Sanford C., livery stable; Baker, Wm. E., lumber, etc.; Baldwin, H. D., & Son, flower and feed; Baldwin, Miller & Morrill, lawyers and insurance agents; Bank of Redwood Falls, Wm. F. Dickinson, prop.; Bell, H. N., & Co., furniture and undertaker; Bigham, Darwin L., county superintendent of schools; Birum, Ener, flour mill, one mile north; Bissel, E. H., jeweler; Boutell, Frederick M., house and sign painter; Bowen & Lamberton, lumber; Bowers, John H. probate judge and lawyer; Brainard, W. P., grain and elevator; Braley, George W., prop., Redwood County Bank; Britton, John, cabinet maker; Bunce, George W., prop., Commercial House; Bunce, Jacob D., grocer; Bunch, S. T., furniture and undertaker; Chandler & Rockwell, hardware and stoves; Chapman, Edwin O., wagon-maker; Christie, John, dentist; Clayson, Walter S., dry goods, etc.; Commercial House, Geo. W. Bounce, prop.; Cook, A. A., & Co., props., Delhi flouring mills; Crocker, Charles, groceries and provisions; Crouley, Wm., groceries and provisions; Cuff & Co., flour mill; Delhi Flour Mills, A. A. Cook & Co., props.; Dickinson, Wm. F., prop., Bank of Redwood Falls; Drake, George, saddle and harness-maker; Dunn, Rev. Charles S. H. (Methodist); Dunnington, Wm. P., register U. S. Land office; Exchange Hotel, O. D. Sickler, prop.; Fargo, H. B., farm implements; Flynn, Barney, land agent; Gale, A. L., county sheriff; Gordon, Bishop, farm implements; Hawk, Wm. H., clerk of district court; Herriott, Wm. B., editor and prop. the Redwood Gazette; Herriott, Wm. B., receiver U. S. Land Office; Hitchcock, D. L., & Son, druggists; Hoppenrath, R. K., boot and shoemaker; Hotchkiss, F. V., blacksmith; Jaeger, Frank, saddle and harness-maker; Johnson, Benjamin, baker and grocer; King Brothers, dry goods and clothing; Laird, Morton & Chollar, lumber; Laird & Dornberg, hardware, farm implements; Lechner & Ackmann, groceries, crockery, etc.; Leibenguth George, meat market; Lichtwarek, Joseph, wines and liquors; Long, Miss L. W., milliner and fancy goods; McCarty, August E., livery stable; McKay & Race, grocers; McMillan, James, general store; Malmberg & Ingalls, insurance agents; March, Thomas A., boots and shoes; Marsh, Rev. G. D. (Presbyterian); Masters, S. O., county surveyor; Matter, Mrs. E., dress-maker; Matter, Wm., photographer; Nelson, George, meat market; Offerman, Matt, saloon and billiards; O'Hara, Francis M., wines and liquors; O'Hara, Oscar E., druggist; Paxton, J. Wilson, loans and real estate; Pearson, A. L., mason; Peterson, John A., blacksmith; Philbrick & Francois, general store; Powell, M. E., lawyer; Redwood County Bank, Geo. W. Braley, prop.; Redwood Gazette (weekly), W. B. Harriott, prop.; Redwood House, John



Strawsell, prop.; Robinson, James B., register of deeds; Sears, Moses, boot and shoemaker; Sewell, Joseph, grocer, boots and shoes, etc.; Sickler, O. D., prop., Exchange Hotel; Simmons & Ortt, farm implements; Smith, Peter, saloon and billiards; Spafford, George H., watches and jewelry; Stickle, Samuel S., court commissioner; Stickle & Wiltshire, general store; Stoddard, C. S., physician; Strawsell, John, prop., Redwood House; Tenny, Wm. P., barber; Thomas, John H., blacksmith; Tibbetts, Till, land agent; Truesdell, Levi, saddle and harnessmaker; Tyler, W. C., express and railroad agent; Van Schaaek, Isaac M., county auditor; Wallin, Alfred, county attorney; Walton, Mrs. T. E., milliner and fancy goods; Wasson & Crooks, blacksmiths; Watton, Davis, civil engineer; Werton & Ruter, flour mills; Whitcomb, Oliver P., grain and elevator; Wilson, Robert A., dry goods; Zwick & Rigby, farm implements.

The Gazetteer gives this description of Redwood Falls in its issue of 1882: "The terminus of the Minnesota Valley branch of the Winona & St. Peter division of the Chicago & North Western railway, and the county seat of Redwood county, in the northern-central part of which it is situated, on the Redwood river, at its confluence with the Minnesota, from which power is derived and utilized by four flouring mills and a saw mill, besides which the place contains 1,000 inhabitants, two banks, five hotels, the most popular of churches, good schools and the usual number of stores, shops and residences, and has stage communications with New Ulm and Beaver Falls daily. St. Paul is 110 miles distant. Express: American. Telegraph: Western Union. Mail, daily. Robert Watson, postmaster." The business and professional directory follows: Ackmann, Wm., grocer; Aiken, James, book and job printer, and publisher of Redwood Gazette; Anderson, Rev. Robt. E. (Presbyterian); Bailey House, Bailey, prop.; Baker, Sanford C., livery; Baker, Wm. E., farm implements and flour mill; Baldwin, Hial D., attorney at law, loans and real estate; Baldwin, H. D., & Son, flour and feed; Bell, N. H., & Co., furniture and undertaking; Birum, Ener, flour mill, one mile north; Bouteille, Frederick M., painter; Bowers, John H., probate judge; Brainard, W. P., grain dealer; Browne, Samuel F., merchant tailor; Bunce, Jacob D., restaurant; Bunch, Salathier T., furniture and undertaker; Butterfield, Marshal K., groceries and notions; Buxton, Broughton & Tyson, meat market; Chandler, Edward A., hardware and stoves; Chapman, Edwin O., wagonmaker; Clayson, Walter S., general store; Cronk, Miss Belle, milliner; Crouley, W., & Co. (Wm. Crouley, S. J. F. Ruter), general store; Cuff, E., & Co., flouring mill; Dickinson, Wm. F., prop., Bank of Redwood Falls; Drake, George, harnessmaker; Dunnington, James M., grocer; Dunnington, Wm. P., register U. S. land office; Ensign, Franklin, clerk of district court; Everett, H. D., hotel prop.;



Exchange Hotel, E. S. Hammond, prop.; Flynn, Barney, land agent; Gale, A. L., sheriff; George, C. W., & Co., lumber; Goodrich, Simeon S., flour and feed; Gordon, Bishop, farm implements; Hammond, E. S., prop., Exchange Hotel; Herriott, Wm. B., receiver U. S. land office; Hitchcock, D. L., & Son (Dennis, L., & Hiram M.), druggists; Hoppenrath, Robert K., shoemaker; Hotchkiss, F. V., blacksmith; Jaeger, Frank, harnessmaker; Johnson, Benjamin, baker; King Bros. (Walter B. and Almon E.), dry goods; Laird & Dornberg (Dallas J. Laird, Otto L. Dornberg), hardware and farm implements; Laird, Norton & Chollar (Wm. H. Laird, Matthew G. and James L. Norton, Henry D. Chollar), lumber; Leibinguth, George, meat market; Lichtwark, Joseph, saloon; Loud, Herbert J., druggist; McCarty, August E., livery; McConnell, John A., meat market; McDonnell, Michael J., boarding house; McKay & Race (Gilbert E. McKay, Samuel J. Race), grocers; McMillan, James, general store; Malmberg, E., insurance; March, Thomas A., boots and shoes; Marshman, R. L., county superintendent of schools; Matter, Wm., photographer and grocer; Merritt & Lys, foundry; Mueller, Peter, saloon; Offermann, Mart, saloon and billiards; Pearson, A. L., mason; Pemberton, Rev. (Methodist); Peterson, John A., blacksmith; Philbrick & Francois (Fremont W. Philbrick, Alexander Francois), general store; Pond & Co., books and stationery; Powell, Milton E., county attorney; Redwood County Bank, Geo. W. Braley, president, Augustus A. Cook, cashier; Redwood Gazette (weekly), James Aiken, publisher and proprietor; Robinson, James B., register of deeds; Sears, Moses, shoemaker; Spofford Bros. (George H. and John W.), watches and jewelry; Stickel, Samuel S., court commissioner; Stoddard, C. S., physician; Strawsell, John, hotel proprietor; Tenney, Wm. P., barber; Thomas, John H., blacksmith; Thompson, James L., farm implements; Tibbetts, Till, land agent and county surveyor; Truesdell, Levi, harnessmaker; Tyler, W. C., railroad and express agent; Van Schaack, Isaac M., county auditor; Wallin, Alfred, lawyer; Walton, Mrs. T. E., millinery and fancy goods; Warner, Fred L., clerk U. S. land office; Wasson & Bager, blacksmiths; Walton, David, civil engineer; Werton & Ruter, flour mills; Whitcomb, O. P., grain dealer and elevator; Wilson, Robert A., dry goods.

Redwood Falls was surveyed for Sam. McPhail by David Watson in October, 1865. The plat was filed for record April 9, 1866. The village was located in section 1, township 112, range 36. All streets were 60 feet wide, and all alleys 20 feet wide. All street lines were due east and west and north and south. The plat consisted of twenty blocks. Each block contained twelve lots, except blocks 6, 7, 10 and 11, each of which had two lots cut out by Court House square. The boundaries were Bridge and Fifth streets on the north and south and Minnesota and East

streets on the west and east. The north and south streets beginning at the west were Minnesota, Mull, Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and East streets. The east and west streets, beginning at the north, were Bridge, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth. Third and Jefferson streets were intercepted by Court House square.

The plat of the Western Addition to Redwood Falls was filed Dec. 29, 1866. The owner was Sam. McPhail.

The plat of Watson Addition to Redwood Falls was filed April 30, 1866. David Watson was the proprietor.

The plat of Watson's Second Addition to Redwood Falls was filed Aug. 16, 1869. Norman and Martha E. Webster were the proprietors.

The plat of Watson's Third Addition to Redwood Falls was filed Aug. 6, 1878. The proprietors were Norman and Mrs. David Watson.

The plat of Watson's Fourth Addition to Redwood Falls was filed Aug. 6, 1884. The proprietors were Norman and Martha E. Webster.

The plat of Hitchcock's Addition to Redwood Falls was filed December 17, 1868. The proprietors were D. L. and Pamela D. Hitchcock.

The plat of Hitchcock's Second Addition to Redwood Falls was filed Dec. 12, 1870. The proprietors were D. L. and Pamela D. Hitchcock.

The plat of Hitchcock's Third Addition to Redwood Falls was filed Sept. 19, 1878. The proprietors were D. L. and Pamela D. Hitchcock.

The plat of the Eastern Addition to Redwood Falls was filed Aug. 13, 1914. The owners were Hans and Marie E. Jensen, and Martin and Franziska Lohrenz.

The plat of Lamberton's Addition to Redwood Falls was filed July 27, 1878. The owner was Henry W. Lamberton.

The plat of Crouley's Addition to Redwood Falls was filed Oct. 4, 1879. The owner was William Crouley.

A plat showing the subdivisions of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 36, town 113, range 36 was filed Feb. 18, 1879.

The plat of the Peavey Lakeside Addition to Redwood Falls was filed July 14, 1909. This land belonged to H. H. Peavey and Ella S. Peavey, his wife.

Redwood Falls was incorporated by a legislative act approved Feb. 18, 1876 (Chapter XV Special Laws of 1876), under the provisions of Chapter 139, General Laws of 1875. Birney Flynn, C. C. Stickle and S. J. F. Ruter were named as commissioners to carry the incorporation into effect. The area of the new village included the west half of section 6, township 112, range 35; all

of section 1, and the east half of section 2, township 112, range 36; all of section 31, township 113, range 35; and all of section 36, township 113, range 36.

The first election was held in the office of Birney Flynn, March 9, 1876, in charge of George A. Buxton and H. A. Luck, judges of election. Nearly one hundred votes were cast. The following officers were elected: President, M. E. Powell; trustees, James McMillan, S. F. Robinson and A. M. Cook; recorder, W. A. Sursher; treasurer, W. D. Flinn; justice of the peace, E. O. Chapman; constable, Thomas McMillan. The first meeting of the council was held at the law office of M. E. Powell, March 11, 1876.

The village organization continued until April 1, 1891, when a special city charter passed by the legislature was approved by the government. The first meeting of the new council was held April 2, 1891, the officers present being Mayor W. F. Dickinson; Aldermen A. W. Badger, A. C. Schmahl, C. C. Peck and G. R. Rose; Recorder O. W. McMillan. H. Winter was appointed chief of police and William Crooks, policeman. John P. O'Hare was appointed street commissioner. H. A. Baldwin has been the city's only treasurer. The present officers are: Mayor, C. A. Luscher; aldermen, John Whittet, J. F. Knudson, J. K. Drury, Fred M. Banker (appointed in place of Oliver S. Dunham, recently deceased); recorder, H. W. Ward; treasurer, H. A. Baldwin; municipal judge, Finley Gray; assessor, H. N. Bell; chief of police, L. H. Kuck; clerk of municipal court, H. W. Ward; park board, H. M. Hitchcock, David McNaughton, H. A. Baldwin; board of health, Dr. S. L. Leonard, Otto Melges and H. M. Hitchcock.

### **BELVIEW.**

(By A. O. Gimmestad.)

The village of Belview is one of the neatest and most active in the county, and the spirit of its citizens has done much for the progress and advancement of the whole community. It is located in section 8, Kintire township, on the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad, 119 miles from Minneapolis, and five miles from Echo, in Yellow Medicine county. Redwood Falls, with which it is connected with a splendid gravel state road, is fifteen miles away. Education, religious, public and commercial affairs, are given deep attention, and there are found here: Norwegian Lutheran Synod, Swedish Augustana Lutheran, and English Congregational churches; a school house costing \$20,000 and covering eight grades and a four years' high school course; a circular park; a village hall costing \$4,000; a fire house and fire company with gasoline engine, hose truck, and chemical extinguishers; a modern creamery and Farmers' Elevator Co.; with other ele-

vators, stores, and business enterprises necessary to an up-to-date and thrifty country village. The Commercial club, the Automobile club and the band all tend to make the place widely known.

The Belview park is a circular park of about three acres, platted and donated to the village in 1899 by A. D. Southworth, in Southworth's Second Addition. It was graded and planted to trees and shrubs in 1900.

The village cemetery consists of three acres, is located about fifty rods south from the village limits and was purchased from A. D. Southworth in 1896.

The fire protection consists of four 700-barrel cisterns located in different parts of the village; a well, 6x6, 168 feet deep, furnishes water for the cisterns; one Waterous 12-horsepower gasoline engine, 1,000 feet of hose, hook and ladder truck, and one 80-gallon chemical extinguisher.

Belview is widely known for its splendid band. The first band was started in about 1892. A. F. Pottratz was its first leader. The only one of its charter members now residing here is A. O. Gimmestad. The present band consists of twenty pieces. It has, for the last six years, had the able and professional musician, Noble Coucheron, of Olivia, Minn., as its leader. The members are: A. W. Lyslo, Waldemar Lyslo, Bernard Gimmestad, Carlyle Rahn, Edwin Olson, C. Norman Enestvedt, Alfred Enestvedt, Knute Hegdal, Casper Olson, Lars B. Seljevold, Knute C. Knutson, Oscar Gimmestad, Edwin Monson, Albert A. Monson, Edward Sampson, John H. Johnson, Forest Dryer, Jesse Olson, Lewis Hoppenrath, Albert Hoppenrath: Officers: A. W. Lyslo, president; Knute Knutson, vice-president; Oscar Gimmestad, secretary; Knute Hegdal, treasurer.

The Belview Automobile club was organized in the spring of 1913. Its first and present officers are: A. O. Gimmestad, president; Wm. Mack, vice-president, H. O. Hegdal, secretary, N. W. Eide, treasurer. It has taken active interest in better roads, has bought five road drags, seeded road sides to tame grass, etc., and has had annual tours in different directions each year, annual banquets, and is a very active and lively club, consisting of about sixty members. A. O. Gimmestad is now, and has been the last three years, its member on the board of directors of the Minnesota State Automobile Association.

The first Belview Commercial Club was organized about 1892. In 1893 it secured a flour mill for Belview, gathered about \$1,500 bonus and furnished the site and rock for foundation for the mill building. It has at various times been instrumental in locating enterprises and promoting the social as well as the material condition in and about Belview; has, the last five years furnished a lecture course of six to nine lectures and entertainments each year. It has the following active committees: Membership and

entertainment, legislative and advertising, city development, manufacture and mercantile, park and band stand, good roads, lecture course and community calendar. Its present officers re: A. O. Gimmestad, president; Nels Monson, vice-president; J. S. Gunelson, secretary, and H. A. Dreyer, treasurer.

The railroad was constructed through the present site of Belview in 1884, but the village was not started until 1887, when Charles H. Jones and Justin F. Jones, brothers, erected a general store and grain warehouse, and F. L. Simpson erected a grain elevator.

The little hamlet gradually grew, and in 1890, the Northwestern Gazetter records the settlement as a flourishing village with a population of 35, and the following business activities: Jones Brothers, general store; Jones, C. M., railroad agent and postmaster; Jones, J. F., coal and grain; Kolean, S. O., hardware; Leppman, George, grain and lumber; Martin, John, wood and live stock; Simpson, F. L., lumber and grain; Sueter, Pauline, music teacher; Sueter, R. L., blacksmith.

The village was platted in 1889, and was incorporated in 1892-93. A census of Nov. 26, 1892, having shown a population of 177, a petition asking for incorporation was drawn up Nov. 29, 1892, and presented to the county commissioners. The petitioners were: J. M. Thompson, A. F. Potratz, Sten O. Kolin, B. Simpson, Martin Listrud, T. Thompson, Peter Eischen, Frank Jaeger, Ole Hanson, J. O. Moline, A. O. Gimmestad, Tom Anderson, Halvor Helgeson, Theo. Ochs, Olie Johnson, H. T. Helgeson, A. H. Bakke, T. W. Gaffney, Clif Reynolds, Ole. H. Mogen, John O. Gordon, Ambrose Fromm, Orin Gibbs, G. H. Kravik, C. C. Enestvedt, John Evans, A. F. Ellies, H. Haagenenson, George Kroy, H. F. Jones, F. L. Simpson, W. J. Howes. Of these there are now living in the village: A. O. Gimmestad, C. C. Enestvedt, O. H. Mogen, B. Simpson and F. L. Simpson. An election on the matter of incorporating was held at the store of O. T. Ramsland & Co., Dec. 31, 1892, in charge of H. F. Jones, Martin Listrud and Sten O. Kolin, and of the forty votes cast, every one was in favor of the proposition. This action was approved by the county board on Jan. 3, 1893. At the regular village election which followed, these officers were elected: President, J. M. Thompson; trustees, S. O. Kolin, Olie Johnson and O. H. Mogen; treasurer, Martin Listrud; recorder, John Evans; justices, A. O. Gimmestad and H. T. Helgeson; constables, Haagen Haagenenson and Alfred Kling.

At the annual election held in Frommes wagon shop on March 13, 1894, the following officers were elected: C. H. Jones, president of council; G. F. Rahn, John Evans, A. O. Gimmestad, trustees; G. H. Kravik, treasurer; A. J. Simpson, Recorder; A. O. Gimmestad, justice of the peace; John Moline, constable. At the annual election held in A. O. Gimmestad's office on March 1, 1895,

the following officers were elected: John Evans, president of council; G. F. Rahn, O. H. Mogen, A. O. Gimmestad, trustees; G. H. Kravik, treasurer; A. J. Simpson, recorder; A. O. Gimmestad, Ole Hanson, justices of the peace, B. Simpson, A. Kling, constables. At the annual election held in A. O. Gimmestad's office on February 29, 1896, the following officers were elected: A. O. Gimmestad, president of council; John Evans, Ole Cole, Tom Thompson, trustees; G. H. Kravik, treasurer; B. F. Hetcher, recorder; W. J. Howes, justice of the peace; Alfred Kling, constable. At the annual election held in the office of A. O. Gimmestad on February 27, 1897, the following officers were elected: A. O. Gimmestad, president of council; John Evans, G. F. Rahn, A. Leonard, trustees; J. M. Thompson, treasurer; Fred Potratz, recorder; A. O. Gimmestad, M. E. Lewis, justices of the peace; J. M. Katzenberger, S. O. Kolin, constables. At the annual election held in the office of A. O. Gimmestad on February 26, 1898, the following officers were elected: F. Potratz, president of council; John Evans, Fred Koher, B. Garries, trustees; J. M. Thompson, treasurer; Wm. H. Wallace, recorder; C. H. Jones, M. E. Lewis, justices of the peace; Chas. Katzenberger, constable. At the annual election held in the fire hall on March 14, 1899, the following officers were elected: John Martin, president of council; W. H. Pease, W. I. Howes, T. W. Wallace, trustees; J. M. Thompson, treasurer; F. Potratz, recorder; C. L. Newhouse, justice of the peace; John McKowen, constable. At the annual election held in the village fire hall on March 13, 1900, the following officers were elected: A. O. Gimmestad, president of council; G. A. Lehmann, John Evans, Ole Darud, councilmen; J. M. Thompson, treasurer; Otto Goetze, recorder; Wm. H. Wallace, Jens Gunelson, justices of the peace; W. H. Peace, constable. At the annual election held in the village fire hall on March 12, 1901, the following officers were elected: A. O. Gimmestad, president of council; A. Leonard, Ole Darud, H. P. Dredge, councilmen; J. M. Thompson, treasurer; Otto Goetze, recorder; Jno. McKowen, B. Simpson, constables. At the annual election held in the village fire hall on March 11, 1902, the following officers were elected: G. F. Rahn, president of council; H. P. Dredge, A. Leonard, G. A. Lehmann, councilmen; J. M. Thompson, treasurer; Otto Goetze, recorder; J. S. Gunelson, H. M. Keene, justices of the peace; C. C. Enestvedt, constable. At the annual election held in the village fire hall on March 10, 1903, the following officers were elected: A. Leonard, president of council; Ole H. Darud, Andrew Peterson, G. A. Lehmann, councilmen; J. M. Thompson, treasurer; F. Hallberg, recorder; A. F. Potratz, Fred Hallberg, justices of the peace; Henry Fish, B. Maus, constables. At the annual election held in fire hall on March 14, 1904, the following officers were elected: A. Leonard, president of council; O. H. Darud, H. M.

Strandjord, B. Holvik, councilmen; J. M. Thompson, treasurer; F. Hallberg, recorder; C. C. Enestvedt, assessor; J. S. Gunelson, justice of the peace; Henry Fish constable. At the annual election held in the village hall on March 14, 1905, the following officers were elected: A. Leonard, president of council; B. Garries, I. Holvik, Andrew Peterson, councilmen; J. M. Thompson, treasurer; J. S. Gunelson, recorder; C. C. Enestvedt, assessor; F. Hallberg, justice of the peace; John Adsit, constable. At the annual election held in the council room on March 13, 1905, the following officers were elected: A. Leonard, president of council; I. Holvik, Andrew Peterson, O. O. Tinnestad, councilmen; J. M. Thompson, treasurer; J. S. Gunelson, recorder; Knute Hegdal, assessor, J. S. Gunelson, justice of the peace. At the annual election held in the council room on March 12, 1907, the following officers were elected: F. G. Tuttle, president of council; Andrew Peterson, E. D. Collins, I. Holvik, councilmen; A. O. Gimmestad, treasurer; J. S. Gunelson, recorder; Knute Hegdal, assessor; M. H. Sandager, justice of the peace; Louis Leonard, Henry Fish, constables. At the annual election held in the councilroom on March 10, 1908, the following officers were elected: F. G. Tuttle, president of council; E. D. Collins, I. Holvik, Andrew Peterson, councilmen; A. O. Gimmestad, treasurer; J. S. Gunelson, recorder; Knute Hegdal, assessor; F. H. Aldrich, A. O. Gimmestad, justices of the peace. At the annual election held in council room in village hall on March 9, 1909, the following officers were elected: F. A. Aldrich president of council; J. J. Holvik, E. D. Collins, Andrew Peterson, councilmen; A. O. Gimmetsad, treasurer; J. S. Gunelson, recorder; Knute Hegdal, assessor; Henry Fish, Louis Leonard, constables. At the annual election held in the council room in village hall on March 8, 1910, the following officers were elected: F. H. Aldrich, president of council; I. I. Holvik, Sam Sampson, Henry Fish, councilmen; G. F. Rahn, treasurer; E. D. Collins, recorder; J. S. Gunelson, C. C. Enestvedt justices of the peace. At the annual election held in the village hall on March 14, 1911, the following officers were elected: G. A. Southworth, president of council; S. E. Kohls, August F. Abraham, F. Bloodow, councilmen; Sam Sampson, treasurer; James Hjeldness, recorder; Knute Hedgal, assessor; F. G. Tuttle, A. O. Gimmestad, constables. At the annual election held in village hall on March 12, 1912, the following officers were elected: F. G. Tuttle, president of council; Rier Gryting, F. Bloodow, E. E. Kohls, councilmen; Otto Flom, treasurer; James Hjeldness, recorder; M. H. Sandager, H. A. Dreyer, justices of the peace. At the annual election held in council room of village hall on March 11, 1913, the following officers were elected: E. E. Kohls, president of council; Wm. Monson, F. Bloodow, R. E. Gryting, councilmen; Sam Sampson, treasurer;



James Hjeldness, recorder; Knute Hegdal, assessor; B. A. Eaton, justice of the peace; Thomas Hagen, M. H. Sandager, constables. At the annual election held in council room of village hall on March 10, 1914, the following officers were elected: E. E. Kohls, president of council; R. E. Gryting, Wm. Monson, F. Bloedow, councilmen; Sam Sampson, treasurer; James Hjeldness, recorder; J. S. Gunelson, W. O. Russell, justices of the peace; B. Simpson, constable. At the annual election held in the village hall on March 9, 1915, the following officers were elected: J. S. Gunelson, president of council; Wm. Monson, Gust Sampson, Ben Simpson, councilmen; Sam Sampson, treasurer; James Hjeldness, recorder; Knute Hegdal, assessor; Tom Hagen, constable.

The original plat of Belview was filed on May 21, 1889. The land in a part of the south half of section 8, town 113, range 37, was surveyed by Charles V. Everett for H. F. and Mary E. Jones on May 13, 1889. There were two whole and two unequal blocks. The streets were eighty feet wide and there were no alleys. The north and south streets, starting at the west, are, Lake, Main and Randolph. The east and west streets, starting at the north, are, Hibbard and Second avenues.

Jones' First Addition to Belview was filed Sept. 1, 1892. The land was owned by H. F. and Mary E. Jones. Southworth's Addition to Belview was filed on Feb. 23, 1897. The land was owned by A. D. Southworth. Southworth's Re-arrangement of Blocks 4, 5, 6, and 8, in his Addition to Belview, and also Southworth's Second Addition to Belview, are superseded by other plats. Jones' Second Addition to Belview was filed Nov. 27, 1899. This land was owned by H. F. and Mary E. Jones.

### CLEMENTS.

The railroad was built through the present site of Clements in 1902. A little trading center had been located one mile north of the what is now the village. At that point was the Three Lakes Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, with J. J. Lorentzon as butter maker. There also was the general store of Rongstad & Thorston, in which was kept the Clements postoffice with L. J. Rongstad as postmaster. A tri-weekly stage to Morgan carried the mail.

At this time Henry Petrie owned the land which embraces the present village. His farmhouse was near where the schoolhouse is now located. His land was sold to the Town Lot Co. for \$50 an acre. The first town lot sale was held in May, 1902, and business activities at once commenced.

H. C. Warnke opened a saloon in a barn, he and Berg Brothers later erecting a brick building, and continuing the saloon. In the same brick building they also had a harness shop.

Rongstad & Thorston moved their store from the Three Lakes

Creamery, and with it the postoffice, L. J. Rongstad still continuing as postmaster. Gerstmann & Hoffenspriger opened a hardware and implement store in a barn, and later erected a suitable store building. The State Bank of Clements erected a slightly brick building which has since housed that institution. The depot was put up, the Laird-Norton Yards opened a lumber yard in charge of Louis G. Lowie, and the Western Elevator Co., Schmidt & Anderson and the Sleepy Eye Milling Co. all erected elevators.

S. G. Peterson opened a store in Warnke's brick building, followed shortly afterwards by Peter C. Nisson & Co., who succeeded him. A livery barn was opened by W. P. Schmidt, and a blacksmith shop by the Wichmann Brothers. Mr. Schmidt also put up a saloon building and opened a saloon. George B. Gag opened a hotel.

Residences were erected by Otto Gerstmann, F. H. Bauermeister, Albert P. Fenecke, F. X. Schlumperger, Joseph Eppel and Walter Thompson. The St. Joseph Catholic church was started that fall and completed the following spring. The German Lutheran church was not erected until some time later.

The village continued to grow, and the Northwestern Gazetteer of 1904 showed the following business activities: Bacher, John and Gustaf, saloon; Berg Bros., saloon; Egenberger, Mathias, justice; Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, S. C. Wohlford, manager; Gerstmann & Hopfenspriger, hardware; Gag, George B., hotel; Laird-Norton Yards, lumber; Nissen, Peter C., & Co., general store; Prokosch & Clements, livery; Queal, J. H., & Co., lumber; Rohner, Jacob, mason; Rongstad & Thorston, general store; Schlekau, J. J., railroad, express and telegraph agent; Sleepy Eye Milling Co., B. A. Eaton, agent, grain elevator; Schmidt & Anderson Co., Joseph Peakert, agent, grain elevator; State Bank of Clements, Joseph Eppel, cashier; Western Elevator Co., F. H. Bauermeister, agent; Wichmann, Emil E., blacksmith.

The Gazetteer of 1906 describes the village as containing a bank, a hotel, a creamery, three elevators, a Catholic church, a school house, and many important business houses and business interests, as follows: Bacher, John and Gustaf, saloon; Christensen & Viegel, saloon; Eisenberger, Mathias, justice; Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, S. C. Wohlford, manager; Gerstmann & Hopfenspriger, hardware; Healey, Howard, barber; Jensen, Miller, meats; Laird-Norton Yards, lumber; Nissen, P. C., & Co., general store; Olson & Christensen live stock; Prokasch & Clements, livery; Queal, J. H., & Co., lumber; Restou, Herman, hotel; Rohner, Jacob, mason; Rongstad & Thorson, general store; Schlekau, J. J., railroad, express and telegraph agent; Sleepy Eye Milling Co., B. A. Eaton, agent, grain elevator; Smith & Anderson Co., Jos. Penkert, agent, grain elevator; State Bank of Clements (capital, \$15,000; H. C. Warnke, president; Joseph Epps,

cashier); Steinhaus, Charles, thresher; Western Elevator Co., F. H. Bauermeister, agent; Wichman, Emil E., blacksmith; Wichman, Edward, thresher; Wolford Bros., threshers.

The village has been furnished with street lights from the private plant of A. E. Clements. The village hall is a sightly structure erected in 1907, a large frame building, ornamented with towering pillars in front. It is used as an opera house and for general meeting purposes.

The original plat of Clements was filed March 24, 1902. It was surveyed for the Western Town Lot Co. by F. R. Kline on Feb. 12, 1902. This land was a part of the northeast quarter of section 33, town 111, range 35. There were four whole blocks and five unequal ones. All the streets were 70 feet wide except Pine and Firsts, which were 80 feet, and Front, which was 66 feet. The alleys were each 20 feet wide. The north and south streets starting on the west were Oak, Pine and Elm. The east and west streets, beginning at the south were Front, parallel to the railroad tracks, First, Second and Third.

The Town Lot Co. has platted two additions. The plat of Blocks 10, 11, 12 and 13 was filed Dec. 3, 1902, and of Blocks 14, 15 and 16, on Sept. 9, 1915.

A petition asking for the incorporation of a part of section 33, township 111, range 35, as the village of Clements, was presented to the county commissioners, dated May 14, 1903, the census of that date having shown the hamlet to have a population of 143 persons. The signers of the petition were: F. H. Bauermeister, Otto Gerstmann, H. C. Warnke, Ernest Juhnke, Albert Juhnke, Jos. Eppe, Lewie J. Rongstad, B. A. Eaton, W. F. Schlekan, F. H. Schlumpberger, Alfred A. Schlumpberger, J. J. Schlekan; J. J. Schmitt, P. C. Nissen, L. G. Cowie, A. P. Fenskecke, A. H. Hoffmann, Matt Eigenberger, Michael Blake, J. Jakof Rosmer, E. C. Wichmann, G. J. Gag, P. O. Wielandt, August Tremel, Henry Bernard, Anton H. Berg and E. R. Wichmann.

The petition was granted and an election ordered held in Warnke's Hall, on June 27, 1903, in charge of F. H. Bauermeister, Otto Gerstmann and L. J. Rongstad. Of the thirty-one votes cast on the question at the election, all were in favor of the incorporation. The first officers of the village were: President, Otto Gerstmann, trustees, Emil Wichmann, F. X. Slumperger, L. G. Rongstad; recorded, F. H. Bauermeister; treasurer, Joseph Eppe. The first constable was Walter Thompson.

### DELHI.

Delhi is one of the older villages of Redwood county, having been started in 1884, soon after the railroad came through. The land was principally owned by A. Y. Felton of Plainview, who

gave every other lot in the village to the railroad, as well as an extensive right-of-way. At that time the Felton farmhouse, located on about lot 4, block 1, was occupied by John McKellhier.

In the summer of 1884, A. H. Anderson, afterwards county auditor, and J. L. Borg, now a prominent resident of Delhi, reached the site of the future village. These young men had previously been farming in Carver county, and had fixed upon Delhi as the scene of their future operations.

No survey had then been made, but the two partners purchased a granary standing south of the Felton farmhouse, and, after hauling goods from Redwood Falls, opened a small store. This granary, rebuilt and remodelled, is still standing north of Mr. Borg's present residence, and east of its original location.

J. L. Borg returned to his home in Carver county, while his brother, C. O. Borg, now of Redwood Falls, and A. H. Anderson, conducted the store. The elevator and the depot were built that fall.

The residents of Delhi during the winter of 1884-85 were C. O. Borg and A. H. Anderson, living over their store; H. J. Heath, the grain buyer, living in the Felton farm house; R. R. Hurlbut, the station agent, living over the railroad station; and John McGuire, the section boss, living in the section house. Some of these gentlemen had their families with them.

J. L. Borg brought his family here Sept. 4, 1885, moved the granary to its present location north of his residence and moved into it.

The town grew slowly. The Northwestern Gazetteer gives the following business activities for Delhi in 1886: Atkinson & Hurlbut, general store and drugs; Borg & Anderson, general store; Boehm, Edward, hotel; Heath, H. J., agent for the Pacific Elevator Co.; Hurlbut, R. R., express, telegraph and railroad agent, dealer in lumber and builders' materials. The village then had a population of thirty people. It is now noted as a grain center and is widely known for its beautiful residence section.

The business directory for 1888 is as follows: Atkinson & Hurlbut, general store; Boehm, Edward, hotel; Borg & Anderson, general store; Borg, C. O., hardware; Chollar, H. D., lumber; Heath, H. J., agent Pacific Elevator Co.; Hurlbut, R. R., postmaster, lumber, general store and express, telegraph and railroad agent; Knutson, Ole, blacksmith; M. & St. L. Elevator Co., grain; Mulford, A. D., & Co., grain; Pacific Elevator Co., H. J. Heath, agent.

In 1890 the business had increased to considerable proportions: Anderson, A. H., justice; Atkinson, E., general store; Balis, Rev. W. E. (Presbyterian); Boehm, Edward, hotel and feed mill (steam power); Borg, C. O., hardware; Borg & Anderson, general store; Cumming, J. O., coal and wood; Cumming & Co., farm im-

plements; Goody, P., carpenter; Interstate Grain Co., C. Alexander agent; Knutson, Ole, blacksmith; Lagerstrom, C., carpenter; Lagerstorm, J. A., hotel; McCorquodale, D., postmaster; McLean Bros., lumber; M. & St. L. Elevator Co., A. H. Anderson, agent, grain; Mulford, A. D. & Co., grain; Pacific Elevator Co., H. J. Heath, agent; Pierson, C. A., railroad, express and telegraph agent; Sherwin, E. W., principal public school.

The original plat of Delhi was surveyed for Charles F. Hatch, Asa Y. Felton and Lizzie L. Felton, on Sept. 1, 1884, by W. S. Dawley, in the northwest quarter of section 17, town 113, range 36. All the streets are 66 feet wide, except Railroad avenue, running parallel with the track, which is 40 feet wide. The north and south streets, beginning at the east are: East, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and West. The east and west streets, beginning at the north are: North avenue, Vanderburg avenue, Franklin avenue and Cass avenue. Railroad avenue, bounding the village on the south, runs northwest and southeast. All the alleys are 20 feet wide.

A petition for the incorporation of Delhi village was drawn up on Oct. 6, 1902, and was signed by the following leading citizens: E. L. Chubb, H. N. Rivers, E. D. House, T. W. McKeen; George Schumm, H. Floyd, D. O. Schooley, Ed. Boehm, Thos. Steele, M. Christenson, Ole Gustafson, Ole L. Flore, A. D. McLean, H. C. Engeman, Alden J. Laidlaw, F. J. Tibbetts, J. L. Borg, Emil Borg, E. Atkinson, Henry T. Helgeson, Ole Knudson, Henry Anderson, Willis W. Creswell, Isaac Leslie, Geo. Leslie, P. H. Olson, W. H. Daylor, Knut Knutson, Charles S. Kramm and Daniel McLean.

The census taken on Oct. 4, 1902, showed a population of 176. The petition was duly granted, and election on the proposition ordered held at the hall of the Delhi Cornet Band, in charge of Daniel McLean, E. D. House and Edwin Atkinson. Of the twenty-eight votes cast every one was favorable to the incorporation.

The first election was held in the band hall, Nov. 25, 1902, with Isaac Leslie and P. H. Olson as judges and H. T. Helgeson as clerk. Twenty-three votes were cast, the officers elected being: President, Edwin Atkinson; trustees, E. L. Chubb, A. D. McLean and Ole L. Flore; recorder, Daniel McLean; treasurer, John L. Borg; justice, D. O. Schooley; constable, E. D. House and H. C. Engeman. The first meeting of the new council was held Dec. 2, 1902.

The present officers are: President, D. R. McCorquodale; trustees, Mad Christiansen, John L. Borg and A. L. Leonard; recorder, M. D. Woolstencroft; treasurer, H. C. Engeman; justice, H. T. Helgeson; constable, M. C. de Graff. The village has an excellent public hall, which was purchased and remodelled for its present purpose. It furnishes an ideal meeting place and is also used as an opera house.

**GILFILLAN.**

Gilfillan is a neat station in section 36, Paxton township, established to provide shipping facilities for the extensive Gilfillan estate. The station and its surroundings are neatly kept, and everything in the vicinity reflects the spirit of the splendid estate from whose founder it takes its name.

Gilfillan Station consists of depot, elevator, and the home of Chas. O. Gilfillan and his manager, Casper B. Huschke. Gilfillan is the result of the labors of C. D. Gilfillan, the well-known and energetic citizen of St. Paul, Minn., who upon deciding to leave the city and establish a farm, where he could carry on farming after his advanced ideas, purchased 8,200 acres of land lying in Morgan, Sherman, Paxton and Three Lakes townships, Redwood county. It has been reduced since his death to about 7,000 acres. He enclosed the place with miles of barbed wire fence, and on this land Gilfillan annually fattened six to eight hundred head of cattle. He gradually made the improvements contemplated in his plan until today there are thirty-five rented farms where a few years ago there was but a feeding station. When C. D. Gilfillan passed away his property was taken over by his heirs, and eventually the remainder of the tract of 7,000 acres came under the control of his son, Chas. O. Gilfillan who resides on the place. Gilfillan station is beautifully situated in an artificial grove of trees four and one-half miles northwest of Morgan. The land, like all the rest around the village, is a black loam from three to six feet deep, resting on a clay subsoil, which holds the moisture. The Gilfillan ideas of farming are being introduced on the thirty-five farms of the district as fast as it can be done. Cattle, hogs, corn, clover and alfalfa are the five keys that unlock the combination. The farmers of Morgan and other townships are catching the idea and stock raising with this combination is coming in fast.

Thousands of bushels of grain, and a number of carloads of stock are annually shipped from Gilfillan station, adding materially to the output of the county.

**LAMBERTON.**

Lamberton, the metropolis of southern Redwood county, is pleasantly located on the banks of the Big Cottonwood river, in the midst of one of the richest farming regions in southwestern Minnesota. Provided with excellent shipping facilities by the Chicago & Northwestern, it draws its trade from two counties, and is constantly increasing in size and importance. It has excellent electric light service, an extensive waterworks and sewer system, a beautiful park, adequate fire protection, and a suitable city hall. The streets are broad and well-cared for, the business

houses are substantial in structure and well stocked with modern goods, while the residences are sightly, and for the most part surrounded with well-kept lawns and shrubbery. The schools are of the best, being well housed and equipped, and offering ample facilities for the securing of a liberal education in many different lines. The churches are flourishing and well-supported, stately in architecture, and commodious in size. The fraternities keep alive the fraternal spirit, and contribute much to the social life of the village. The white way gives a truly metropolitan appearance to the business section, and adds to the pleasant impression that the stranger receives of the whole place.

The park which was donated by W. C. Brown, for many years secretary to H. W. Lamberton, land commissioner of the Winona & St. Peter Land Co., and afterward land commissioner himself, has been beautified by the village authorities, until now it is as beautiful a one-block park as is to be found anywhere. It is well laid out with attractive lawns, walks, and flower beds, ornamental shrubbery, and shaded with a wide variety of trees. The cannon, which adds a most artistic touch to the park, was presented to the old soldiers of the vicinity by the United States government.

The waterworks and sewerage system has reflected the growth of the village. Originally private wells were the only supply of water, and there was no fire protection. Later a cistern for fire protection was installed and a city well constructed. In time the present adequate system was adopted. The old windmill which once pumped the city water, and which was long a feature of the village landscape, is now gone, and in its place a modern pumping station, operated by electricity, has been installed. The water supply is derived from an eight-inch well, which draws its water through an open end from a gravel bed nineteen inches thick, sixty-four feet below the surface. The water rises to a level, thirty feet below the surface. When the well was completed in 1901 it was tested for thirty-six hours continuously at a rate of sixty gallons a minute, and at present it is pumped at about thirty-five gallons a minute. The water is hard. Some 10,000 gallons is consumed daily. Private wells, which furnish the supply for many of the families, have an average depth of about forty feet and their yield is somewhat dependent upon the amount of rainfall. The sewer system extends through the business streets and also through some of the residence districts.

The Peoples Light & Power Co. not only supplies the current for illuminating the streets, business houses and residences, but also furnishes power for the pumping station, and provides illumination and power for many of the surrounding villages.

The village hall, which is the old schoolhouse moved and remodelled, provides a meeting place for all village purposes, and



also houses the fire apparatus. The fire company is in charge of George Nigg.

The churches are of the English Methodist Episcopal, German Methodist Episcopal, English Lutheran, German Lutheran, Catholic and Congregational denominations.

The leading fraternities here are the A. F. & A. M., the K. of P., the I. O. O. F., the M. B. A., the W. O. W., the C. O. F., the Rebekahs, the Eastern Star and the Royal Neighbors.

The rails for the Winona & St. Peter, now the Chicago & Northwestern, were laid through the southern part of Redwood county in 1872, the first construction train reaching Marshall on Oct. 12, 1872. The winter was long and hard, and railroad work was entirely suspended during the winter months, and it was not until April 14, 1873, that a train passed through Redwood county in the spring.

When the railroad reached section 20, Lamberton township, in the fall of 1872, A. A. Praxel, from near New Ulm, and Frank Schandera, from St. Clair, formed a partnership and opened a general store just south of the railroad track. Charles Bennett, who had a farm nearby, opened a boarding house. A postoffice, called Charlestown, was established there, with A. A. Praxel as postmaster, and hopes were entertained that the embryo village would become the biggest town on the line west of New Ulm.

But the railroad authorities decided upon section 23, as the site of the future village. There C. R. Kneeland erected a building in 1873, opened a boarding house and hotel, and was appointed postmaster, the name of Lamberton, which had already been given to the railroad stopping place, being likewise given to the postoffice. In 1874 Praxel & Schandera moved their store from Cottonwood Crossing and established themselves at Lamberton.

Mr. Kneeland opened his store in the first house in town, which was used as a boarding house and hotel. It stood where the flour house of the Farmers' elevator now stands. In addition to his other business, he added that of lumber and building supplies. He sold out and went to Wisconsin, where he lived for a few years. He came back again and went into the lumber business. He lived here from that time until he died. Mrs. Kneeland, the widow, now lives at Marshall, Minnesota.

Hopes of a speedy success were blasted by the grasshoppers, and the business did not grow to any important extent. In 1877, the last year of the grasshopper ravages, the business interests of Lamberton were represented by Praxel & Schandera, general merchants; W. E. Golding, blacksmith and wagonmaker; Adolph Graumann, harnessmaker and saloonkeeper, and N. P. Nelson, dealer in lumber, grain and agricultural implements.

The departure of the grasshoppers and the return of prosperity to the agricultural regions brought a great boom to Lam-

berton. The village was platted in 1878 and incorporated in 1879, and when the Northwestern Gazetteer was issued early in 1880 it showed Lamberton as a busy place, with heavy exports of grain, butter, eggs, hides and wool, with Methodist and Congregational churches, a good school, a newspaper, and many business houses. The possibilities of the undeveloped waterpower are mentioned, and the opportunity for a grist or woolen mill is stated. A semi-weekly stage was then running to Windom. The directory of business activities showed the following names: Anderson, Hogan, wagonmaker; Berry, C. W., railroad agent; Broer, Henry, wagonmaker; Clausen, R., hotel proprietor; Crandall, F. U., physician and druggist; Fuller L., general store; Gun-san, Rev. John (Methodist); Grobuer, J., boots and shoes; Hackey, W. A., justice of the peace and flour and feed; Holder, Rev. George (Congregational); Horton & Co., lumber yard; Junnel, F., hotel and saloon; Larson, John, hardware; Letford, E. J. furniture; Letford John S., express agent and general store; Madigan, M. M., lawyer; Nelson, N. P., live stock dealer; Nelson, N. P., lumber, grain and farm implements; Praxel & Shandera, general store; Reed, Wm., grain dealer; Roth, John, blacksmith; Shandera, F., live stock dealer; Terry, George, hotel proprietor; Whitten & Judd, grain elevator; Yarham W. W., editor and proprietor Lamberton Commercial

The Gazetteer for 1882 shows the following activities: Anderson, Hogan, wagonmaker; Anderson, O. A., blacksmith; Chester Bros., general store; Clauson, R., saloon; Crandall, L. S., physician and druggist; Devine, H., barber; Fuller, L., general store; Hackey, W. A. justice and flour and feed dealer; Herrington, Rev. J. H. (Methodist); Holder, Rev. George (Congregational); Horton & Co., lumber dealers; Jurmel, F., hotel and saloon; Larson, John, hardware; Lawer, John, meat market; Letford, George, express agent; Letford, J. S., furniture and general store; Libby, George, lawyer; Madigan M. M., lawyer; Morton, Richard, hardware; Nelson, N. P., farm implements; Oleson, R., meat market; Orker A. W., general store; Peterson, S. D., farm implements; Pierce, John, hotel proprietor; Pievee, P. L., hotel proprietor; Praxel & Shandera, general store and grain dealers; Roth, John, blacksmith; Shandera, F., live stock dealer; Smith, A. J., railroad agent; Thorp & Whitney, lawyers; Whitten & Judd, grain elevator; Yarham, W. W. editor and proprietor Lamberton Commercial.

The original plat of Lamberton was filed August 19, 1878. The land was surveyed for Henry W. Lamberton on July 1, 1878, by T. G. Carter, surveyor, in the west half of section 23, town 109, range 37. There were ten blocks, all full blocks, each containing 12 lots. All the streets were 70 feet wide, except "D" street, which was 80 feet wide, and First street, which was also 80 feet wide. The alleys were 20 feet wide. The streets running north and south,

starting at the west, were A, B, C, D, E and F. The streets running east and west, starting at the north, were First, Second and Third.

The plat of Grimm & England addition to Lamberton was filed March 6, 1915. The owners were Mr. and Mrs. George J. Grimm, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. England, Ed. Arnsdorf and Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Asmus. The plat of M. L. McGee's addition to Lamberton was filed June 24, 1892. The land was owned by M. L. and Irene McGee. The plat of Lamberton & Sykes' first addition to Lamberton was filed June 7, 1893. This land belonged to Henry W. Lamberton and M. L. Sykes.

The plat of H. W. Lamberton's second addition to Lamberton was filed on August 26, 1903. The plat of H. W. Lamberton's addition to Lamberton was filed December 22, 1900. The plat of Lamberton & Sykes' second addition to Lamberton was filed July 12, 1897.

Lamberton was incorporated by act of the Legislature, approved March 1, 1879 (Chapter 8, Special Laws of 1879), under the provisions of Chapter 139, of the General Laws of 1875. J. S. Letford, Frank Schandera and N. P. Nelson were named as commissioners to perfect the organization.

According to the History of the Minnesota Valley, published in 1884, an election was held at the schoolhouse March 17, 1879, thirty votes being cast and officers elected as follows: President, J. S. Letford; trustees, N. P. Nelson, William M. Reed and L. S. Crandall; recorder, Frank Schandera; treasurer, W. E. Golding; justice, M. M. Madigan; constable, J. A. Letford.

According to the village records, a meeting of the electors was held March 31, 1879. Dr. L. S. Crandall was appointed temporary chairman. The meeting then organized with M. M. Madigan as president, W. E. Golding as recorder, and J. Maybury as treasurer. The minutes of April 14, 1879, would indicate that N. P. Nelson and William M. Reed were then the trustees. L. S. Crandall was also a trustee. J. S. Letford was constable. There appears to have been a constant change in the recorder's office, William E. Reed, N. C. Nelson, Fred C. Gley, L. S. Crandall, C. A. Lambert and Marion Crandall all signing the minutes at one time or another during the first eighteen months of the village's existence.

After the village of Lamberton was incorporated only routine work was done. The council met from time to time, transacted business and adjourned. After one or two small fires occurred in the village, on January 2, 1889, the council bought the first fire engine. It was a hand-power affair and cost, complete, \$575.

When the engine arrived the town called a mass meeting, which took measures to organize a fire company. On February 11, 1889, this company was organized with twenty-five members. In looking over the list of members in the old records, will be found nearly

all the names of the prominent first settlers. Joseph Libby was elected foreman and Frank Schandera assistant foreman.

Things moved along slowly but surely after that, the village growing more and more, until five years later the village of Lamberton began to take on metropolitan ideas, and the agitation for waterworks and sewer commenced. After much talk, pro and con, the council authorized the building of a waterworks plant, advertised for bids on August 27, 1894, let the contract for a waterworks system that cost \$5,043.

After this work was started the need of a main sewer developed and after advertising for bids, the council let the contract for a main sewer to cost \$1,850. This contract was let on September 10, 1894.

The present officers are: President, G. A. Keonig; recorder, A. J. Praxel; trustees, Thomas Masterson, Charles A. Lauer and Emil Gerth; treasurer, George R. Kluegel; justices, L. A. Gooter, C. M. Herrman; constables, Michael Moore and Harry Beaty; assessor, William Miller.

The first schools in Lamberton were opened in the summer of 1875 by Louise Kelley, teacher, with 16 pupils. The school was conducted at the residence of J. H. Abbott. The first school house was built that fall. It was a small affair and is now used by Mr. McGee as a granary. The first school board was composed as follows: Director, W. W. Kelly; treasurer, J. S. Letford; clerk, W. E. Golding.

The next school house was the two-story building erected on lots 4, 5 and 6, block 6, in the village of Lamberton, in the year 1891. This building was purchased by the village of Lamberton from the shool district on March 27, 1907, and is now being used for a village hall and for housing the village fire company apparatus. The next school building was built in 1892 and was used for a third school room in addition to the two in the last named school house. This little building is now a part of the Methodist Episcopal church in Lamberton.

Independent School District No. 31 was organized July 28, 1894, and the following year the first directors were: R. Clauson, H. H. Dahl, Fred Koenig, P. Hayes, C. F. Waterman and Frank Clague. The school site where the brick grade building is situated was erected November 13, 1894. Contract for building this brick school building was let July 8, 1896, for \$12,800, for which the school district issued bonds for \$15,000 and the first tax levy was \$3,100.

The dedication of the building was held January 6, 1897, the principal speaker being S. R. Van Sant. The first superintendent in the new school building was E. K. Greene, and his assistants were Miss Addie Hugenin, Miss Grace Jewison and Miss Tena Nelson. The heating plant in this building was originally a hot air

affair, but in 1909 a complete steam heating plant was added to the building.

The present Consolidated School District No. 31 was organized November 28, 1914, on which date the voters from school districts Nos. 41 and 91 voted on the matter at the school house in Lamberton. Forty-two votes were cast, of which twenty-nine were in favor of consolidation and thirteen against. The school board of Independent School District No. 31 the same evening passed a resolution consenting to the consolidation and the county superintendent made the formal order on December 1, 1914.

On February 3 the voters of the Consolidated School District voted on the issuance of bonds in the sum of \$45,000 and the same was carried by 105 in favor to 11 against. The school board let the contract for the new school building on April 5, 1915, for \$46,963. This new building was occupied November 15, 1915.

The present number of teachers employed is seventeen, as follows: Superintendent, Herman N. Bergh; principal, N. N. Stevenson; assistant principal, Alice E. Wilkinson; high school and librarian, Eda Zwinggi; normal training department, Eulalia F. Weisend; agricultural department, Adolph H. Reuhl; domestic science department, Mary Sweeney; manual training department, L. B. Graves; eighth grade, Pearl E. Poorker; seventh grade, Valeria Bellig; sixth grade, Zelphia Bellig; fifth grade, Anna M. Ekholm; fourth grade, Evelyn Daly; third grade, Lena Enns; third grade, Katherine Haas; second grade and music, Zelma C. Lindeman; primary, Mae Erickson.

The present school board is composed of the following: A. H. Enersen, L. Redding, George J. Grimm, G. A. Koenig, Edwin Anderson and D. V. Gleysteen.

The vicinity of Lamberton has been known since the earliest days. Before the massacre, Charles Zierke, known as Dutch Charlie, settled a few miles to the eastward, near the creek that now bears his name.

In 1862 J. F. Bean came as a soldier during the Indian war, and looking over the country, decided to come back, which he did in 1866, bringing with him Hogan Anderson, father of the brothers, Edwin and A. C. Anderson. Returning, he brought his family here in 1867, and with him came Guli Peterson and wife, Ole Peterson and wife, Carolius Peterson and family, Joseph Christenson and family and Charles Porter with his family. Together they built a house on the highest point of land in section 25, of what is now known as township of Lamberton. This building was placed on the high land for fear of the Indians. The six families moved into this house and lived there for one year, or until each one had built their own home. About 1870 Mr. Bean moved to his other holdings, several miles southwest of Lamberton.

Charles Porter, who came with Bean, filed on 520 acres of land

two and one-half miles east of Lamberton, in Charlestown township, living on it until 1866. He took an active interest in all the work of organization, moving into Lamberton village in 1886. He shortly afterwards moved to California.

W. W. Kelly, one of the earliest settlers, came in 1873. He took a homestead three miles north of town, built a fine home and worked the farm for a number of years. Later he moved into town and went into the lumber business. In addition he built a warehouse for grain, store for hardware and combined it all with the real estate business. Mr. Kelly's warehouse was a favorite place for holding meetings—church services, etc., while the town was young. Declining health in later years sent him to Northfield to live with his daughter, where he died.

M. B. Obbett came here in 1869 and located on section 24. He was made of stern, sticking material and survived the grasshopper years. He took an active part in all of the forward movements of Lamberton and was popular enough to be elected sheriff of Redwood county. He moved from here to Redwood Falls while sheriff, but at the end of his term came back. He lived here for nineteen or twenty years after that until he died in June, 1914. M. B. Abbett was the first treasurer of the town of Lamberton.

Hiram Small was another one of the old settlers. He came here in 1871 and located in section 22 just west of town. He lived as a successful farmer on this place until he died in 1910. The place is now owned by his son-in-law, Pliny Terry.

W. E. Golding, another one of the old-timers, settled on a farm just north of the town. Living there for a number of years, he afterwards moved into town and opened a blacksmith shop. He was elected the first town clerk of the town of Lamberton, and also an early village recorder of the village of Lamberton.

## LUCAN.

Lucan is a thriving little village in the center of Granite Rock township, on the line of the Evan-Marshall branch of the Chicago & North Western. The place is unusually neat with its cement block, corrugated iron and substantial frame buildings. There is an unusually progressive and friendly spirit among the people and the village is widely known.

Before the railroad came through, Rupert Schanberger had a store and in section 14, a mile and a quarter east of the present village of Lucan. He was appointed postmaster and the office named Rock. E. J. Noreutt moved the store to the Jefferson farm in section 20. Two surveys had been made for the railroad, and Mr. Noreutt believed that he had located on the future site of the village.

But when the railroad was built, in 1902, the Western Town



Lot Company purchased land from George W. Norcutt and Christ Hansen and platted the present town. The first lots were sold April 10, 1902.

In the fall, a building was moved to the townsite from the Jefferson farm in section 20, and opened as a store by Lawrence Jorgensen, who was likewise the postmaster. The building still stands and is occupied by the general store of John Zeng. Several buildings went up that fall and winter. The first store building erected was a two-story frame structure, 20 by 50 feet, on the east side of the street. It was built by Jens Larson and opened as a restaurant. Later it was changed to a general store. Into it the post-office was moved, and here it has since remained. On the west side of the street a saloon was opened, one by Andrew Koller in a one-story frame building, 20 by 50; and on the east side one by Frank Jung, in a two-story frame building, 24 by 70 feet. Emil Black erected a two-story frame building, 24 by 50 feet, and opened a general store. The Sleepy Eye Milling Company, with Nels P. Larson as manager, and the Springfield Milling Company, with Henry C. Dittbenner as manager, each erected elevators.

The slightly bank building, a two-story brick building, was erected in 1905. For some years the Catholic church was the only church in town, but in 1915 the Lutherans erected a neat edifice. The school is located in a substantial frame building.

The village has a hall, owned two-thirds by the township, which provides an excellent meeting place, and is equipped with a stage and scenery for the presentation of theatrical attractions. There is a jail of cement blocks, and a pumping station of brick. At the pumping station is a bell alarm, and the fire company consists of some twenty members. The public water supply comes from a well, with a reserve cistern of 1,500 barrels' capacity. The White compressed air system is used, the tank has a 500-barrel capacity, and there is a maximum pressure of 65 pounds. The system consists of a Fairbanks-Morse pump, 6 by 6, capacity 175 gallons per minute; power gasoline engine; 1,300 feet of 4-inch water mains, five double hydrants; three dead ends. The fire equipment consists of a hose cart with some 500 feet of jacket lined rubber hose.

The electric lights, in streets, houses and business places, were inaugurated in 1915, the power being supplied by the Grain and Fuel Company. There is a splendid grove near the village, which the village authorities have attempted to buy from the Town Lot Company, but have thus far been unsuccessful.

The original plat of Lucan was filed on March 27, 1902. The land was surveyed by F. R. Kline for the Western Town Lot Company on January 20, 1902. The land was a part of the east half of the northeast quarter of section 21 and the west half of the northwest quarter of section 22, town 111, range 28. There were 6 blocks, each containing 12 lots. The streets were 70 feet wide,



except First, which was 66 feet wide, and Main and Second, which were 80 feet wide. The alleys were 20 feet wide. The east and west streets, starting at the north, were First, Second and Third. The north and south streets, starting at the west, were Oak, Pine, Main and Elm.

The plat of block 8, addition to Lucan, was filed December 6, 1911. The land was owned by the Western Town Lot Company.

The plat of block 7, addition to Lucan, was filed on December 24, 1909. The land was owned by the Western Town Lot Company.

The plat of blocks 9 and 10 and outlot A, addition to Lucan, was filed January 27, 1916. The land was owned by the Western Town Lot Company.

One of the greatest prides of the village is the Lucan baseball club. This team, strictly amateur, and made up of the young men of the village and surrounding country, is noted far and wide, and contains a number of players, who, if they so desired, could secure marked professional honors. Loyalty to this team has been one of the important factors in the get-together spirit which animates the citizens.

Lucan was incorporated in 1902. A special census taken October 6, 1902, having shown a population of 182, a petition was drawn up the next day and presented to the county commissioners, asking that the village be incorporated. The signers of the petition were Andrew Koller, John Flessner, Henry Dittbenner, O. R. Holloway, Jens Larson, Lawrence Jorgensen, H. S. Miller, Herman Wenzell, George W. Norcutt, Joseph Holm, Charles O. Weilandt, W. C. Norcutt, George C. Johnson, C. A. Nelson, P. C. Curtin, R. A. Norcutt, Siver Benson, Peter Benson, Dick Balk, Julius Hallberg, Thomas Mulvany, James Joseph Mullin, Frank Murray, Arnold Rollen, Frank Scharfe, Christian Hanson, Theo. Milkle, N. H. Haage, K. F. A. Pielt, Peter Jacobson, Ole Ugland, Will L. Conrad and Jacob Vezal.

An election was duly held on November 17, 1902, at the waiting room of the Chicago & North Western Railroad, and of the thirty-two votes cast, eighteen were in favor of incorporating the village and fourteen against it. The judges of election were Joseph Holm, C. A. Nelson and John Flessner. The first election of officers was held at Young's Opera House, March 29, 1904, in charge of J. M. Stephenson, H. C. Dittbenner and Nels Larson. The first council met April 11, 1904, those present being: Nels P. Larson, president; Oscar R. Holloway, recorder; John Flessner, Nels Haagenen and Anton Kramer, trustees. The present officers are: President, Anton Kramer; recorder, Guy S. Dickerson, trustees, Charles Welter, Joseph Wurscher and William Hanson; justice, Nels Haag; treasurer, O. H. Gehrke; assessor, F. C. Wegner.

**MILROY.**

Milroy, the most western of Redwood county towns, is located in sections 16 and 17, Westline township, on the Evan-Marshall branch of the Chicago & Northwestern. It is thirteen miles from Marshall and thirty miles from Redwood Falls. Situated in the midst of a splendid farming country, its three large elevators give it good facilities for a large grain market, over half a million bushels of grain being shipped in the season of 1914-15.

The village, with its brick buildings, as seen from a distance, presents a metropolitan appearance, and a nearer approach confirms the original impression. The municipal improvements are of the best, waterworks and electric light service having recently been installed. For the purpose of generating power for the electric lights and water works, the village has erected a substantial building of cement blocks. Earl Christopherson will operate the electric light plant. The waterworks system consists of a deep well, tank, and pumping station, with mains covering the principal streets, and an adequate number of hydrants. The electric lights will be used for street lighting, and also in the business houses and residences.

Milroy has four churches, Methodist, Catholic, German and Norwegian Lutheran. There is a good semi-graded school, employing three first grade teachers. The M. W. A. and the A. O. U. W. have flourishing lodges. At one time there was an excellent commercial club. The Milroy Telephone Co. conducts a local exchange and connects with the rural line. There is a good hall for public purposes, privately owned. The village building contains the jail and the fire apparatus. The volunteer fire company has an engine and hose cart, and will soon have a hook and ladder truck.

The land upon which Milroy was platted was originally owned by C. E. Levig and Thomas Murphy. The lots were sold April 9, 1902, and building operations were commenced at once, lumber being brought from neighboring towns for the first structures. The first year saw several substantial buildings erected that would do credit to any villages, and Milroy has since enjoyed a steady growth. The first general stores were opened by Zeingham & Woodruff, George Brundage, Altermatt & Schwandt Brothers, and Olson & Olson. J. A. Looney conducted the first hardware store, John Drees the first saloon, Robert Reichel the first hotel, Edwards & Hickey the first harness shop, F. M. Rolfe the first barber shop. Fredrickson & Olson were the implement dealers, and Curtis & Propp operated the livery and dray line. Hayes, Lucas Lumber Co. and J. H. Queal & Co. put in lumber yards, and the Nelson Brothers, the Sleepy Eye Milling Co. and the Springfield Milling Co. opened elevators.

Milroy has been somewhat unfortunate as to fires. Two elevators, a schoolhouse, a saloon, a livery barn, and a store and vacant building have been burned. Dec. 28, 1915, the hardware and implement stores and the electric light plant owned by J. W. Dysart were burned. This plant had been furnishing the village with current since August, 1914. The village records were destroyed when the Nelson Brothers elevator burned in 1904.

One of the pleasant features of Milroy is the large number of trees to be seen about the streets in the residential districts. These trees were set out by the city fathers in the early days of the village, and are now proving a monument to their foresight and artistic appreciation.

In recent years a number of modern buildings have been erected. Serr Brothers completed a garage in the summer of 1915. Dorum Brothers opened a cement block plant in 1916. In the fall of 1916 C. G. Seeman erected a hardware store of cement blocks. It was in the late summer and early fall of 1916 that the village put up the cement building, already mentioned, occupied by Earl Christopherson for the electrical plant.

The village, as stated, was started in 1902. When the Northwestern Gazetteer was issued in 1904 Milroy was already a thriving settlement. It has a good bank, a newspaper, Methodist and Norwegian Lutheran churches, a hotel, telephone, telegraph and express service, and many other features necessary to a thriving urban community. The business activities of that year were: Aldermatt & Schwandt Bros., general store; Bickford, A., physician; Clair, E. A., meats; Druss, J., saloon; Edwards & Hickey, harnessmaker; Frederickson & Olstead, farm implements; Gulden, R., saloon; Johnson & Peterson, livery; Klein, J. J., railroad, express and telegraph agent; Larson, Theo., grocer; Looney, J. A., publisher Milroy Echo; Milroy Echo, J. A. Looney, publisher; Oveilie, A., saloon; Queal, J. H. & Co., lumber; Rawlings F. H., hardware and furniture; Reichel, R., hotel; Sawyer, Charles, hardware; State Bank of Milroy (capital \$15,000; Wm. Beirman, president; Wm. Duncan, Jr., cashier); Taplin, Frank, barber; Taplin, Frank, Drug Co.; Winstad, G. T., blacksmith; Zingheim & Woodruff, groceries and drugs. In 1906 the Gazetteer shows these names: Altermatt & Schwandt (Adolph Altermatt, Henry Schwandt), general store; Bickford, Frank J., physician; Fredrickson & Olstead (Fred A. Fredrickson, John Olstead), farm implements; Goins, Roscoe C., restaurant; Gueden, Rhinold, saloon; Haycock, Wm. D., flour mill; Hayes-Lucas Lumber Co., C. C. Dripps, agent; Hotel Milroy, Robert Reichel, proprietor; Johnson, Eli, saloon; Klein, James J., railroad, express and telegraph agent; Larson, Theodore, general store; Milroy Echo, E. M. Wilson, publisher; Milroy Farmers' Elevator Co. (J. W. Dysart, president; S. E. Weber, secretary), grain elevator and fuel; Nelson

Bros. (Philip & Leonard), grain elevator, fuel and live stock; Potter & Halsten (S. T. B. Potter, Chas. A. Halsten); Peterson, Ole, livery; Queal, J. H. & Co. (Chas. Semans, agent), lumber and fuel; Rawlings, Frank H., hardware; Rutz & Son (Chas. G. T. and Herbert C.), general store; Reichel, Robert, proprietor Hotel Milroy; Sleepy Eye Milling Co. (Theo. Fuglede, agent), grain elevator and fuel; Springfield Milling Co. (F. Bloedow, agent), grain elevator; State Bank of Milroy (capital \$15,000; A. Altermatt, president; Wm. Duncan, Jr., cashier); Taplin, Frank, drugs and barber; Wilson, Edward M., publisher Milroy Echo; Wistad, G. T., blacksmith.

In 1908, the Gazetteer contains these names: Altermatt & Schwandt (Adolph Altermatt, Henry Schwandt), general store; Frederickson & Olstead (Fred A. Fredrickson, John Olstead), farm implements; Gakoske Frederick, railroad, express and telegraph agent; Gulden, Reinhold, saloon; Haycock, Wm. D., flour mill; Hayes-Lucas Lumber Co. (C. C. Dripps, agent); Hotel Milroy, Robert Reichel, proprietor; Johnson, Eli, saloon; Krmela, Rudolph, shoemaker; Myers, Wm. G. (Fred De Bour, manager) hardware; Milroy Echo, Edward M. Wilson, publisher; Milroy Farmers' Elevator Co. (J. W. Dysart, president; S. E. Webber, secretary); Nelson, Turpe, grain elevator; Peterson, Ole, proprietor Milroy Livery; Rawlings, Frank H., hardware; Reichel, Robert, proprietor Hotel Milroy; Sleepy Eye Milling Co. (Theo. Fuglede, agent), grain elevator; Springfield Milling Co. (Theo. Larson agent), grain elevator; State Bank of Milroy (capital \$15,000; Adolph Altermatt, president; Wm. Duncan, Jr., cashier); Taplin, Frank, drugs; Wilson, Edward M., postmaster, publisher Milroy Echo and dealer in groceries; Distad, Geo. T., blacksmith.

The original plat of Milroy was filed March 27, 1902. The land in a part of southeast quarter of section 17 and southwest quarter of section 16, town 111, range 39, was surveyed for the Western Town Lot Company by F. R. Klime on February 24, 1902. There were eight whole blocks and four unequal blocks. The streets were 70 feet wide, except Superior, which was 80 feet wide; Railroad, 66 feet wide, and Euclid avenue, 100 feet wide. Each alley was 20 feet wide. The streets running north and south starting on the west are Lorain, Prospect, Euclid avenue, Lexington and Marion. The streets running east and west, starting at the south, are Cedar, Cherry, Superior and Railroad, the last named being parallel to the railroad tracks.

Milroy was incorporated in 1902. The census of October 6, 1902, showed a population of 177 and on that date a petition was drawn up, asking for the incorporation of a vast tract in sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, township 111, range 39. The signers of the petition were: Otto S. Schwandt, J. A. Looney, Thomas F. Kinman, Charles Sahagan, J. O. Horde, H. Rowe, Wm. S. Easton,

C. G. Leeman, O. P. Horde, Robert Richel, Wm. Murphy, Jens Pederson, Lewis P. Pederson, C. W. Christenson, I. J. Cross, Richard Edwards, F. J. Rolfe, Henry Schwandt, Edw. Ellifsen, Anton A. Andersen, John K. Hanson, P. A. Nelson, Ole Solseth, Ole Emmeson, L. F. Nelson, Wm. B. Cannon, C. I. Olson, H. W. Fredrickson, J. G. Falkingham, H. Boxiderson, Clement Simmons, Geo. Olson, Hugh Reed, Christ Pederson, James J. Kleins, Frank A. Wyrembek, James Wreight, Louis Thaemert, M. J. Broderick, Everett A. Clair, N. C. Gingras, G. M. Brown, Anton Lobeche.

The petition was granted and an election ordered held at the barber shop of F. M. Rolfe, Nov. 15, 1902, in charge of F. M. Rolfe, Otto G. Schwandt and J. A. Looney. The election was duly held, and of the fifty-four votes cast only two were against the proposition. The first officers elected were: President, Otto Schwandt; councilmen, R. F. Edwards, J. J. Klein and J. A. Looney; recorder, F. M. Rolfe; treasurer, F. J. Bickford. Otto Schwandt did not serve out his full term, but was succeeded a few months later by William Duncan, Jr. January 3, 1905, a petition was presented to the commissioners asking that the incorporate limits be reduced. The reduction went into effect February 7, 1905.

### MORGAN.

The Minnesota Valley Division of the Winona & St. Peter, now the Sleepy Eye-Redwood Falls branch of the Chicago & Northwestern, was built through Morgan township in 1878. At that time the trade of Redwood county centered at Redwood Falls or went south to Sleepy Eye and Springfield, thriving young towns on the main line of the Chicago & Northwestern. Midway between Sleepy Eye and Redwood Falls and in the center of the richest soil region of this part of the state the railroad established a siding, made arrangements for the shipping of farm products, etc., and called the station Morgan, after the township. The first employee of the company and the first man to settle in this new place was T. G. Holland, section boss. The first house built in Morgan was the house of "Tom" Holland, built near where the depot now stands and occupied by him as a home, a store, the postoffice, and a boarding house. Mr. Holland soon was appointed postmaster, but his position did not carry with it many arduous duties, as the neighbors in the territory at that time were few and far between. He had no boxes to rent, and no well-to-do people to use a lock box or drawer. In the spring of 1878, Mel Tolman came to Morgan and commenced work for Holland as an assistant on the section. Then was when the Holland home became a boarding house. As the farmers began to occupy the territory around about this little village of one house and a box car Holland

saw his opportunity and carried a small line of groceries, tobaccos, etc., for the occasional customer that "came to town." The Holland home, repaired and enlarged, still stands near where it did, and is now occupied by Mrs. John Schwetzler. Tom Holland is dead, but his assistant, Mel Tolman, is still living, is hale and hearty at fifty-eight years of age, and ready to talk about the early days of this thriving village.

In 1881 George Knudson, of Sleepy Eye, built the first store in Morgan, and was appointed postmaster. The store occupied the present site of the new creamery. He stocked it with a general line of merchandise. In September, 1883, he sold out to Louis Gerstman, who continued the store until his death. His son, Otto, continued the business for a while as administrator. Some years later, the son, Frank, after graduating in pharmacy, put in a stock of drugs and moved the store to Vernon avenue. He is now occupying the new Arcade. The store thus has a continuous history back to 1881.

Another early store was that of a man named Rinke, who erected a building and put in a small stock of goods on the present site of the Schieffert building, opposite the State Bank of Morgan.

It was not until 1888, that the village began to show promise of being the prosperous and important point that it is today.

The Northwestern Gazetteer issued early in 1888, shows the following business activities: Dingler, Anna, dressmaker; Eischen, N. & Co., general store and postoffice; Gerstman, L., general store; Kives, Michael, saloon; Marti, John, lumber; Miller, Wm., blacksmith; Mire, Karle, blacksmith; Robinson & Teas, hardware; Ryden T. F., lumber; Van Dusen, G. W. & Co., grain; Wegner, Wm., saloon; Wegner & Weller, farm implements.

When the Gazetteer was issued in 1890, the village had grown considerably, and Catholic, Presbyterian and German Lutheran churches had been erected. The business activities shown in the Gazetteer of that year were: Breman, John, dressmaker; Eischen, N. & Co., general store; Faerber, Joseph, butcher; Gerdes, Richard, postmaster, general store and notary public; Gerstman, L., general store; Hellig, John, hotel; Hitz, Hil, saloon; Kives, Michael, saloon; Marti, John, lumber; Miller, William, blacksmith; Mire, Karle, blacksmith; Moore, Harvey, blacksmith; Newman, Henry, hardware; Newman, McRea & Junger, lumber; Robinson & Teas, hardware; Ryden, T. F., lumber; Tisser Bros., saloon; Van Dusen, G. W. & Co., grain; Wegner, Wm., saloon; Wegner & Wilder, farm implements.

The Gazetteer for 1892 shows these activities: Albrecht & Grabow, general store; Benham & Austin, hardware; Dahmes, J. & Co., boots and shoes; Eagle Mill Co., grain; Eischen, N. & Co., general store; Faerber, Joseph, butcher; Fixsen Bros., saloon; Frank, John, saloon; Gerdes Richard, general store and notary;



Gerstman, L., general store; Goblisch & Goblisch, blacksmiths; Heinke, R. F., farm implements; Hodges, Wm. R., proprietor Morgan Messenger; Jungers, John, hotel; Jungers & Hopp, farm implements; Lorge, Kate, dressmaker; Lorge, N. D., grocer; Marti, John lumber; Miller, Wm., blacksmith; Morgan Messenger, W. R. Hodges, proprietor; Omehl, A., grocer; Rider, Wm., railroad, telegraph and express agent; Ryden, T. F., lumber; Seifert, M., saloon; Sleepy Eye Roller Mills Co., grain; Van Dusen, G. W. & Co., grain; Wilter Nic, furniture.

At first the street parallel with the railroad was used for business; but the use of this street for mercantile purposes was restricted by the fact that the south side was used by lumber yards, shipping and oil stations, elevators and the like. So, gradually, Vernon avenue, the street running north from the station, became the real business street. Extending from the corner of Front and Vernon, there is a solid line of business houses on both sides of the street, giving to the village a neat and busy appearance.

At the east end of the business district of Morgan is Vernon Park, a beautiful little breathing place for the residents of the village. Covered with trees in symmetrical formation, dotted here and there with flower beds, pleasant to look at, surrounded by cement sidewalks, walks laid out through the grounds, the whole plat covered with grass and well kept with no "Keep off the Grass" signs in sight, make Vernon Park a veritable oasis for the tired traveler.

The original plat of the town of Morgan was filed October 18, 1878. It was surveyed by Arthur Jacobi on August 14, 1878, for George B. Wright and Gustavus A. Austin. This land was in the west half of southwest quarter of section 115 and the east half of southeast quarter of section 16, town 111, range 34. It contained seven whole blocks, and Vernon Square. Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 extended to Front street, making them half a block longer than the ordinary size. Blocks 1 and 9 were only half a block wide. The streets ran in a northwest and southeast direction, and in a northeast and southwest direction. The northwest and southeast streets beginning at the south were: Front, Second and Third. The northeast and southwest streets, beginning at the east, are: Somerville, Bloomington, Vernon, Cleveland and Carlton. All the streets are 75 feet wide, except Vernon, which is 100 feet wide. The alleys are all 20 feet wide.

The plat of Schoffmann's Second Addition to Morgan was filed June 20, 1901 by Joseph and Catherine Schoffmann. The plat of H. M. Ball's rearrangement of lots 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of block 3, Morgan, Minnesota, was filed May 10, 1902. The owners were H. M. Ball and Augusta Ball. The plat of Schoffmann's subdivision of lot 6, Auditor's subdivision No. 1 of the southwest quarter of southwest quarter of section 15, town 111, range 34 of



Morgan. This land was owned by Joseph Schoffmann. The plat of Hanson's second addition to Morgan was filed October 17, 1899. It belonged to Peter C. and Mary K. Hanson. The plat of Hanson's third addition to Morgan was filed June 22, 1900. This land belonged to Peter C. and Mary K. Hanson. The plat of Schoffmann's addition to Morgan was filed October 4, 1900. This land belonged to Joseph and Catherine Schoffmann. The plat of the first addition to Morgan was filed November 27, 1888. The land belonged to Sarah E., Julia A., Kate M., Charles A. and Sarah M. Austin, and Carrie A. and Vernon A. Wright. The plat of the second addition to Morgan was filed on October 10, 1890. The land was owned by Julia A., Kate M., Charles A., and Sarah M. Austin, and Carrie A. and Vernon A. Wright. The plat of Gerstmann's rearrangement of block 10 of the first addition to Morgan was filed April 20, 1892. The land was owned by Louis and Anna Gerstmann. The plat of George W. Porter's addition to Morgan was filed April 21, 1893. This land belonged to George W. and Luella E. Porter. The plat of an addition to Morgan lying east of the original plat was filed July 29, 1893. This land was owned by Peter C. and Mary K. Hanson. The plat of Davidson's first addition to Morgan was filed January 25, 1909. The land was owned by F. E. Davidson.

Morgan was the first village in Redwood county to be incorporated by petition to the county commissioners. The three older villages, Redwood Falls, Lamberton and Walnut Grove were incorporated by the legislature. A petition was presented to the commissioners on January 2, 1889, setting forth that on January 1 the village had a population of 230, and asking that parts of sections 15, 21 and 22, township 111, range 34, be incorporated as the village of Morgan. Those signing the petition were: S. A. Longnecker, Morris Christensen Henry Neumann, Nicholas Eischen, Chas. Wegner, E. A. Blanchard, S. F. Porter, Geo. E. Conley, H. Porter, Micke Kives, G. B. Tretbar, A. L. Robinson, Louis Gerstmann, Nick Welter, William Hopkins, Henry Holkal, F. Wegner, H. Stitz, Frank A. Jacoby, Anson Arcker, P. F. Ryder, Jr., Peter Radidow, Wm. Kinman, Th. Bethke, Henry Welder, F. A. Wegner, Wm. Mueller, Jerry Reardon, Dennis Reardon, Thom. Thompson, H. Moore, Jos. Heiling, Dan. McGregor, John Marti, P. F. Ryder, Sr., Geo. Leatherman, E. Leatherman, R. Gerdner, Frank Billington, Ben Rodidow, Joe Fries and Geo. W. Robinson.

The petition was granted, and an election ordered held on the question, February 9, 1889, at the hotel office of Mike Kives, at "Morgan Station," in charge of S. A. Longnecker, Henry Neumann and Nick Welter. Of the fifty votes cast, only two were opposed to the incorporation.

The first officers were: President, John Marti; councilmen,

William Mueller, Frank Billington, P. F. Ryder, Sr.; recorder, George E. Conley; treasurer, Richard Gerdes; constables, Ben Robidou, Henry Hoehne.

The first meeting of this council was held on February 23, 1889, at which all members of the council were present. At this meeting the ordinances that completed the organization were drafted and enrolled in the ordinance book of the new village of Morgan. From this date on until 1902 no items of great importance came up; just the routine business of a small village. In 1902 the voters of Morgan elected a new council, consisting of young men, some of whom had just attained to manhood legally.

The members of the council were: President, A. P. Metag; councilmen, John Marti, J. C. Albrecht, Charles Porter; recorder, Otto Gerstman. This council started in to do things; first making arrangements with the Chicago & North Western railway for two train loads of sand and gravel. It was donated by the railway. With this they built the sidewalks on Vernon avenue of cement and of good width. Then turning their attention to other improvements they let contracts for a \$6,000 sewer on Vernon avenue and a town hall to cost \$3,000. The spirit and enterprise of this council will never be forgotten in Morgan. The next great improvement was in 1913, when, during the time J. C. Jackson served as president of the council, the waterworks was put in and the town electric lighted. While C. B. Root was president of the council, the "White Way" was put in place on Vernon avenue, making that street as light as other towns and cities throughout the country.

In 1893, under the direction of H. M. Ball, then chairman of the school board, the first half of the present school building was built, being sufficient at that time for the children of school age. The building was outgrown within five years and in 1899 the other half was added, making it large enough to accommodate the high school as well.

Again, in 1915, the town has been obliged to remodel, and another story was added, the basement made to accommodate the manual training and domestic science classes. The building is thoroughly modern, and its grade of work is high. The high school has been under the charge of Prof. O. A. Brandt, for a few years, and has been brought to a high state of efficiency under his care. Prof. Brandt resigned his position this year to take a pension and a much needed rest.

Morgan at the present time has three elevators, two lumber companies, two live stock companies with ample yards, one creamery, four general stores, one modern drug store, one exclusive clothing store, two banks with deposits of over \$600,000 between them, two up-to-date garages with modern equipment, two agricultural implement dealers, three restaurants, one ice cream parlor, one exclusive shoe dealer, one harness store, one furniture store,

a hotel, a barber shop, photo studio, two pool halls, one flour mill, one cash produce company and one livery.

It also has five churches, first class public school, a parochial school and a number of the so-called secret societies. Each one of the churches is looking out for the social life of the church and the ladies of Morgan are not behind any of their sisters in the neighboring towns in social life.

Churches and school houses dot the landscape in every direction from Morgan village, giving the dwellers in the farming districts every opportunity to enjoy the three great things in America, "education, patriotism and religion."

The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1888. The first board of trustees were: R. C. Robinson, P. C. Hansen, D. S. McGregory, J. W. Carlile, William Leas, F. E. Davidson and S. A. Longnecker. The society owns a neat building for worship and a "manse," where pastors can enjoy life while officiating in their clerical capacity. The church has sat under the teaching of nine pastors before the present one, William Stewart Sheilds. Harry B. West is the Sunday school superintendent. There are nearly 100 members and the church has a Ladies' Aid Society and a Y. P. S. C. E.

Zion Lutheran Church was organized December 26, 1888. It is having a vigorous growth in the last few years and the building soon will be outgrown. Professor E. R. Bliefernicht comes from New Ulm every other Sunday to officiate as pastor.

The German Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1893 with about ten members, but the members succeeded in buying a school house and remodeling it into a church in 1897. The cost was nearly \$2,000. This building was destroyed by fire soon afterwards with only \$1,700 insurance on the property. By the untiring efforts of the pastor, Henry Pottleoff, and the congregation another church and parsonage was erected to cost over \$6,000. This building was dedicated on Sunday, December 15, 1907, and it was a proud and happy congregation that gathered to hear the dedicatory sermon. The church has an enrollment of over 150 members with G. A. Rabe as pastor and E. H. Albrecht as Sunday school superintendent. The church has a flourishing woman's missionary society and Epworth leagues.

St. Michael's Catholic Church—This parish was formed about 1890 as a mission from the Sleepy Eye Church. This old first mission was struck by lightning in 1901 and burned to the ground. Shortly afterward the parish built the present brick building, which cost \$15,000. The church, since its first establishment as a mission, has enjoyed a growing membership; ninety to one hundred families now partake of its communion. The church has conducted a parish school since 1904 for nine months in each year. Rev. V. Bozja is the present pastor.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1888. It then numbered seven souls. In 1889 the society erected the present church with living rooms for the pastor in the rear. Three years later a parsonage was built and occupied by Rev. W. Langholz, who still retains the pastorage. The church cost over \$4,500 and the parsonage \$2,000. The membership numbers nearly 100 and there is a Sunday school of over 100 members.

The Morgan Live Stock Shipping Association is a new organization of farmers in the vicinity of Morgan who have joined together to ship their own stock direct. While organized for some time, the association has never done much until its reorganization in January, 1916. The company is shipping all kinds of live stock, cattle, hogs, sheep, calves, etc., and the association now numbers 148 members. The manager, R. H. Kempton, is kept very busy during the shipping season. The first carload was shipped on January 25, 1916, and 42 cars of all kinds of live stock have since been shipped. The officials are: President, Lars Benson; vice-president, N. P. Nelson; secretary and treasurer, John Welter; and these three, with Nick Heiderscheir and Matt Seifert, constitute the present board of directors.

The Farmers' Elevator Company, recently organized, is one of Morgan's live institutions. The company has shipped some 162,000 bushels of grain and corn in the last two years, and bids fair to equal, if not exceed, that figure in the next two. Hon. C. M. Bendixen is president of the association, John Welter secretary, with T. Stevens, buyer and manager.

The Morgan Co-operative Creamery Co. On January 28, 1916, sixty farmers met at the city hall in Morgan and organized the above institution, taking over the old creamery then in operation. By February 3, 111 farmers had signed for stock and at this writing some 200 farmers are holding stock in this new enterprise. The first board of directors was Lars Benson, John Welter, C. M. Bendixen, F. W. Zaske, C. G. Sasse, Wm. Hilger and E. A. Zimmerman. From this board of directors were chosen the following officers: President, Lars Benson; vice president, F. W. Zaske; treasurer, C. M. Bendixen; secretary and manager, John Welter. The company is building a new creamery on Front street opposite the depot to cost with its sanitary, modern equipment nearly \$20,000. It will have all the latest style of machinery, a cooling machine with which can be made artificial ice if needed, storing rooms and covered driveway for taking in cream at specially prepared intake rooms. The creamery now employs two men to gather cream who bring in about one-third of the cream supply, the rest being delivered by the patrons themselves.

The Morgan Milling Co. has been in existence for a number of years as a co-partnership, the mill having been built by Casper Green, a heavy land owner and farmer. Soon after the mill was

started Green & Son realized that to be successful they should have an elevator to buy grain, so bought on the railroad right-of-way. They continued until January 1, 1916, when Casper Green, wishing to retire from active life in town, was instrumental in incorporating the milling business and elevator into the Morgan Milling Co., Inc. During the last two years the mill has shipped about eighty carloads of flour and feed for eastern trade, while their local trade in Morgan and state trade has been as much more. The elevator shipped during the last two years 360,000 bushels of all kinds of grain, corn, etc.

The mill makes a brand of flour, which is enjoying a good reputation and sale. It is called "Monarch." The officers of the Morgan Milling Co., are: President, Casper Green; vice president, W. J. Mattke; secretary and treasurer, Alfred Green. The Morgan Milling Co. is but one of the many outlets for the disposing of the farm crops in Morgan township and vicinity.

The Wherland Electric Co., while organized to use the surplus electrical energy in the power at Redwood Falls, has its main office at Morgan. It is now supplying light and power at North Redwood, Morton, Franklin and Morgan. The president and general manager is Alfred Green, secretary and treasurer at the Morgan Milling Co. They have in contemplation the supplying of several more towns adjacent to Redwood Falls as soon as extra power is secured.

The vicinity of Morgan was settled in the middle seventies. In 1876 two brothers, Thomas and James Butcher in looking for a location found their way into the Indian reservation and settled upon a piece of land in the northeastern part of what is now known as Morgan township, Redwood county. Just over the line of the township in what is now known as Sherman, about the same time came the Root family and the family of John W. Carlile. A little later Russell Robinson bought land south of the Butchers and Lars George with his family settled in the southeastern part of the township on the land now occupied by his heirs. To the northwest of these sturdy settlers was the little city of Redwood Falls, beautifully situated at the junction of the Redwood river and Ramsey creek, and just before its confluence with the Minnesota river. Southeast of this home of fertility was the quaint town of Sleepy Eye, the site of many Indian stories and traditions. Not far away were the ruins of the old Sioux Agency.

On May 11, 1880, the county commissioners granted a petition organizing the town, and called an election to be held May 26, 1880. On that date the first town meeting was held with the following result: Whole number of votes cast, fifteen; of which the following officers each received fourteen and were declared elected: Chairman, C. R. Kimball; supervisors, W. McGinnis, G. W. Hurd; clerk, James Butcher; treasurer, Geo. Knudson; as-

essor, Thos. Butcher; justices, T. G. Holland, C. Christianson; constables, N. Behnke, J. Connell. On April 4, 1881, Geo. W. Hurd, was appointed the first road overseer, and C. R. Kimball was appointed clerk to fill vacancy.

Thirty-six years ago, four years after the first inhabitant had commenced to till the soil in this fertile spot, but fifteen voters could be found to elect the first town officers. Out of the fifteen voters, ten were elected to office. This was certainly an army of officers, not privates.

### NORTH REDWOOD.

The vicinity of North Redwood became the homestead of J. S. G. Honner, in the sixties. In 1876 an attempt was made to start a village called Riverside, in the same vicinity. Streets were laid out in sections 20 and 29, a warehouse erected, a store, hotel, blacksmith shop and other buildings put up, and a postoffice established. But diminishing waters of the Minnesota caused a cessation of river traffic, and the village was abandoned. Some of the buildings were moved to Redwood Falls.

The Minneapolis & St. Louis reached Morton in 1882, but was not pushed on through Redwood county until 1884. In the fall of 1884, Thomas Tradewell erected a dwelling, and E. N. Swan & Co. opened a general store. A railroad station was established, and Richard W. Sears, became station agent. It was here that Mr. Sears started the mail order business that has become famous as the Sears, Roebuck & Co.

When the Northwestern Gazetteer was issued in 1886, Mr. Sears was still the postmaster, express agent and station agent. E. N. Swan & Co. still had their general store. George Gigerich had a saloon. C. D. Haven & Co. had a lumber yard. J. S. G. Honner was keeping a boarding house. John Weiss was also keeping a boarding house.

In 1888, the Northwestern Gazetteer showed the following business activities in North Redwood: Birum & Anderson (Eric Birum, Albert J. Anderson, proprietors North Redwood Roller Mill); Carleton, Guy H., railroad, express and telegraph agent; Chollar, H. D., lumber; Dworshak, Frederick, hay presser; Fleischer, Charles, stone quarry; Hammer, Frank F., hardware; Honner, John S. G., hotel; Johnson, W. J., lumber agent; McGuire & Kuenzli (John M. McGuire, Emil Kuenzle), general store; Mulford, A. D. & Co., grain; North Redwood Roller Mill, Birum & Anderson, proprietors; Pacific Elevator Co., grain; Swan, Edward N., general store and postmaster; Tradewell, Thompson J., agent Pacific Elevator Co.; Weiss, John, hotel.

In 1890 the business life of the village was represented as follows: Birum & Anderson (Ener Birum, Albert Anderson),



flour mill; Carlton, Guy H., railroad, express and telegraph agent; Fleischer, Charles, stone quarry; Honner, Annette, hotel; Kuenzli & Dreyer (Emil Kuenzli, Rufus Dreyer), general store; Laird-Norton Co. (W. J. Johnson, agent), lumber; Lindeman, August A., hardware; Mulford, A. D. & Co. (T. J. Treadwell, agent), grain; Pacific Elevator Co. (A. G. Treadwell, agent), grain; Schumacher, Peter, furniture and wagonmaker; Swan, Edward N., general store; Tradewell, Thompson J. (agent A. D. Mulford & Co.), coal and grain; Weiss, John, hotel.

North Redwood was surveyed by Tillson Tibbetts November 1, 1884, for John S. G. Honner and Antoinette Honner, his wife. The plat was filed August 22, 1885. This land was in the west half of northwest quarter of section 29, town 113, range 35. It contained one whole block and five fractional blocks. All the streets were 60 feet wide, except East street, which is 50 feet; Front street, which is 34 feet; and River street, parallel to the track, which is 66 feet. All the alleys were 23 feet wide. The north and south streets beginning on the west, are: Main, Center and East. The east and west streets, beginning on the north, are: Coon, Front and River, which last named is a continuation of Front street.

The plat of Fleischer's addition to North Redwood was filed July 30, 1892. The land belonged to Charles and Delia Fleischer.

On June 6, 1903, a petition was presented the county board asking for the incorporation of parts of sections 29 and 30, township 113, range 35, there being at that time 143 persons in the hamlet. Those signing the petition were: Charles Fleischer, Thomas Hoskins, Allen Whitaker, E. H. Davis, J. R. Keefe, J. R. Farrell, S. J. Sampson, A. G. Tradewell, Harvey Duncan, George Starken, Philip Starken, Henry Dreyer, G. W. Yontz, B. Kuenzli, H. W. Shoemaker, A. H. Meyer, W. B. Herman, Jno. H. Fish, Fred Swempke, Henry Timm, Lewis Peterson, James Stephens, L. C. Fleischer, A. H. Page, E. A. Stoddard, A. M. Larson, Ben H. Kuenzli, Charles Kuenzli, F. W. Hoepner, John Wueiss and P. E. Van Dusen.

The petition was granted and an election ordered held at Shoemaker's Hall, August 14, 1903, in charge of Charles Fleischer, J. R. Keefe and Thomas Hoskins. Of the twenty-three votes cast, only two were against the proposition.

### REVERE.

Revere was platted in 1886 and incorporated in 1899-1900. The village had its start when the railroad put into use two box cars, one as a station and the other as a freight house. About 1899 Bingham Brothers built a flat house for the storing of grain. Norman T. Nelson started buying grain. Later Hans Nelson was



the buyer. D. S. Cantine started dealing in live stock. The first store was that of Louis J. Rongstad & Co. In this store was the postoffice, with Mr. Rongstad as postmaster. Mr. Rongstad's partner was A. O. Anderson, who seems to have been the financial backer.

When the Northwestern Gazetteer was issued in 1896, Revere was a thriving point, and these business activities for that year are given: Anderson, Ambrose, shoemaker; Bingham Bros. (H. Nelson, agent), elevator; Cantine, D. S., live stock; Dahl Bros., general store, grain and live stock; Dahl, O. H., hotel; Dahl, H. H., postmaster; Nelson, Hans, grain; Nicholaison, Jens, carpenter; Parsons, W. B. (O. H. Dahl, agt.), elevator; Rasmusson Bros., blacksmiths; Revere Co-operative Creamery Co. (James J. Lawrentzen, manager); Young, George H., tanner and glovemaker.

In 1898 these business activities are shown in the *Gazetteer*: Anderson, Ambrose, shoemaker; Bingham Bros. (H. Nelson, agent), elevator; Bridley, A. H., general store; Dahl Bros., general store, grain and live stock; Engen, J. J., fuel; Lohre & Munsen, hardware; McDougal, W. D., railroad, express and telegraph agent; Munsen, Albert, hotel; Nicholaison, Jens, carpenter; Rasmuson Bros. (Emil C. and Louis P.), blacksmiths; Revere Creamery Assn. (H. H. Dahl, manager); Parsons Grain Co. (O. H. Dahl, agent), elevator; Schultz, John, hotel and dray line; Standard Lumber Co. (O. H. Dahl, agent), elevator; Turner, F. E., general store; Weldon, Arthur, confectionery.

The original plat of Revere was filed on May 26, 1886. The land a part of the northwest quarter of section 25, town 109, range 38, was surveyed by John E. Blunt for the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company on April 30, 1886. There were two unequal blocks. The east and west streets starting at the north were First and Second, each being 80 feet wide. The north and south streets, starting on the west, were Cottonwood, 80 feet wide; Main, 100 feet, and Oak, 80 feet wide.

The plat of blocks 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 addition to Revere was filed Nov. 19, 1901. The owners were the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company. The plat of the first railroad addition to Revere was filed Aug. 30, 1898. It belonged to the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company. The plat of the Hirschfeld Park addition of Revere was filed Dec. 20, 1901. The land belonged to Eugene and Hannah Hirschfeld.

The census of Dec. 21, 1899, having shown a population of 177, the citizens on Dec. 22, 1899, presented a petition to the county commissioners asking that the village be incorporated, including land in sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, township 109, range 38. The signers of the petition were: Martin C. Jensen, A. H. Bridley, H. H. Dahl, C. L. Newhouse, J. J. Dittbenner, W. H. Hawkins, P. A. Pederson, Emil Rasmussen, J. E. Christensen,

Oscar Kempe, L. N. Larson, L. P. Rasmussen, Jos. Marihart, C. Neal, John Schultz, F. O. Bleness, Hans Nelson, W. B. Leo, Paul Jones, F. E. Keith, Jay Roof, Otto Schulze, Louis Fick, H. C. Fick, M. H. Dahl, J. O. Peterson, L. P. Pederson, A. J. Monson, Martin Wentz, Peter Wentz and C. L. Andrews.

The election on the question of incorporating was held at the schoolhouse, Feb. 17, 1900, in charge of Oscar Kempe, C. L. Newhouse and Hans Nelson. All the thirty votes cast were in favor of the proposition. A short time later the first election of officers was held, resulting as follows: President, Emil C. Rasmussen; trustees, Martin Wentz, W. B. Leo and Anton Schiller; recorder, Oscar Kempe; treasurer, A. H. Bridley. The first constable was John Schultz. The first meeting of the new council was held March 15, 1900. The present officers are: President, C. C. Engen; trustees, A. V. Pearson, Charles Wilbur and Fred Sixbury; recorder, F. B. Grinde; treasurer, Chris Nielsen; justice, H. R. Pantier; assessor, E. M. Walker; marshal and street commissioner, Ed A. Nelson.

A short sewer system was installed in 1914. The volunteer fire department has ample equipment, including a Waterous gasoline engine, and is in charge of E. A. Nelson. There is a splendid wild park of eleven acres on Pelt creek, which is a favorite resort of outing parties. The Norwegian Lutheran congregation has an excellent church here. Electric power from Lamberton was installed in the fall of 1916, furnishing light for the streets as well as for the business houses and residences.

### ROWENA

Rowena is a small hamlet in section 27, New Avon, on the Evan-Marshall branch of the Chicago & North Western.

The original plat of Rowena was filed March 24, 1902. It was surveyed by F. R. Kline for the Western Town Lot Company on Jan. 28, 1902, in the north one-half of the southeast one-quarter of section 27, town 111, range 36. It contained two full blocks, and also two unequal blocks. The streets were 70 feet wide, except Main street, which was 80 feet wide, and Front street, which was 66 feet wide. All the alleys were 20 feet wide. All the streets are parallel with the town line except Front street, which runs parallel with the railroad track. The north and south streets beginning at the west are Oak, Main and Pine. The east and west streets running due east and west, beginning on the south are First and Second.

### SANBORN

Sanborn had its beginning in 1880. At that time John T. Yager had a farm here, and his farmhouse stood on what is now West street, just west of the west end of River street.

J. W. Dotson came here that year, and built a combination store and dwelling house, about 200 feet south of the present Atlas elevator. E. P. Dotson, son of J. W. Dotson, came in 1881, built a warehouse about where the stockyards now are, and dealt in grain and fuel. He also erected a residence. Thomas Poole, the father of Mrs. J. W. Dotson, lived with the J. W. Dotson family, and was appointed the first postmaster, keeping the office in the home of J. W. Dotson. Soon after, he resigned in favor of his son-in-law. In 1882, John Letford erected a general store. About the same time A. Schellenberger opened a blacksmith shop.

Business continued to gather at this point, and the Northwestern Gazetteer of 1884 shows these business activities: Armstrong, C., general store; Bingley, B. L., boarding; Dotson, Enos P., boarding; Dotson, John W., grain; Letford, John A., general store, postmaster and express agent; Merriam, L., wood; Shellenberger, A., blacksmith; Shuck, L., shoemaker; Waterman, C. F., lumber.

In 1886 the following names appear in the Gazetteer: Armstrong, C., general store; Bingley, B. L., boarding; Case, Dr. O. A., druggist; Dotson, John W., grain; Letford, John A., hardware and furniture; Merriman, L., wood; Murray, T. A., harness and shoemaker; Posz, George, wagonmaker; Shellenberger, A., blacksmith; Wagner, Daniel, saloon; Waterman, C. F., lumber; Wells & Schraeder, general store and lumber.

Sanborn is now a flourishing village of many advantages. Particularly attractive is the public triangle, with its brick pumping station and village jail, its band stand and its stately bell tower. The pumping station is likewise used as a council chamber. In the early days fire protection was furnished by a cistern. In 1914 the present waterworks system was established. In the fall of 1915, electric light service was installed, the power being secured from Lamberton. A strong volunteer fire department, organized many years ago, is in the efficient charge of Dr. M. C. Piper.

An interesting feature of the village life is the magnificent building of the Sanborn Improvement Co., a stock organization, which is now on a profitable basis. The lower floor of the building is used as a theater and general meeting place, while the upper floor is fitted up as a lodge hall.

The lodges that flourish here are the Masonic and Eastern Star, the I. O. O. F. and the Modern Brotherhood of America.

There are four churches, the German Lutheran, with a resident pastor; and St. Thomas Catholic, Methodist Episcopal and German Evangelical, served by pastors who reside elsewhere.

The original plat of Sanborn was surveyed for John Yaeger by T. G. Carter, and filed on Oct. 10, 1881, in the east half of

southeast quarter of section 26, town 109, range 36. It contained five blocks, three south of the railroad track, and two north. Three of these were whole blocks and the other two were fractional blocks. All the streets were 80 feet wide, except Main street, and a part of River street, which were 66 feet wide. All the alleys were 20 feet wide. Main street extending directly north and south. The northeast and southwest streets, beginning on the west, were: West, North (north of the tract), South (south of the tract) and Dotson. The northwest and southeast streets, beginning at the north, were: John, Yaeger, Leetford and River. The plat of the Winona and St. Peter Land Company's first addition to Sanborn was filed Dec. 26, 1900. The plat of the Winona and St. Peter Land Company, second addition to Sanborn, was filed May 26, 1899. The plat of Yaeger's first addition to Sanborn was filed May 9, 1900, by John and Margaretha E. Yaeger. The plat of the Winona and St. Peter Land Company's third addition to Sanborn was filed Aug. 11, 1900. The plat of Lehne's addition to Sanborn was filed May 9, 1901. The land was owned by Julius and Mary Lehne. The plat of Wells and Schoeder's first addition to Sanborn was filed Nov. 9, 1888. The land belonged to O. D. and Tena Wells and William Auguste Schoeder. The plat of the Winona and St. Peter Land Company's fifth addition to Sanborn was filed Jan. 4, 1904. The plat of Yaeger's second addition to Sanborn was filed Sept. 5, 1907. The land was owned by John and Margaretha E. Yaeger. The plat of the Winona and St. Peter Land Company's first addition to Sanborn was filed June 20, 1892. The plat of Dammonn's second addition to Sanborn was filed Jan. 16, 1903. The land belonged to John and Marie Dammonn. The plat of Dammonn's addition to Sanborn was filed on May 16, 1894. This land belonged to John and Mary Dammonn.

A petition was presented to the county board Aug. 24, 1891, showing that the population of the hamlet was 177 persons, and asking that parts of sections 25, 26, 35 and 36, township 109, range 36, be incorporated as the village of Sanborn. The signers of the petition were: Patrick Dinneen, J. W. Dotson, C. E. Armstrong, John Karlson, Chas. Yagle, John H. Posz, John Widnman, O. D. Wells, George Posz, B. L. Ringle, W. A. Hackley, T. A. Muvooy, E. P. Dotson, S. L. Dotson, A. Gorwin, A. Shellenberger, John Yaeger, E. Crane, L. P. Madison, Geo. A. Drablon, David Gorvin, John A. Yaeger, C. F. Watherman, Henry Dietz, Chris Dingle, John Dammann, John Dotson, Herman Holtznagel, George Huhnergarth, M. Duly, H. Feverstein, F. C. Posz and A. Schmidt.

The commissioners granted the petition. A vote on the question was taken at the postoffice, Nov. 17, 1891, in charge of W. A. Hackley, E. P. Dotson and O. D. Wells, and of the 41 ballots cast, every one was in favor of the incorporation.

### SEAFORTH.

When the railroad reached the present site of Seaforth, in 1899, it was already a trading center of some importance. North of the present track, near the site of the present Presbyterian church, was located the Farmers Co-operative creamery Co., conducting a creamery and feed mill. Near the creamery was the store of J. C. Pratt. After the railroad came through, John Longbottom opened a hardware store in the fall of 1899, and at about the same time Kramer (Michael) & Borte (Paul J.) opened a general store. J. H. Queal & Co. (J. C. Barton, manager) and the C. M. Youmans Lumber Co. (J. H. Hayden, manager) opened their yards that same fall. Frank V. Stanek built his hardware store late that fall, but did not open the store until early spring.

The place was known for a while as Okawa Station. Early in 1900, when the canvass was made for the Northwestern Gazetteer, Okawa Station had a population of but twenty-five. Trains were running regularly, and telegraph and express service had been established. J. C. Pratt was the postmaster, and J. Raymond the railroad, express and telegraph agent.

The village grew rapidly and when the Gazetteer was issued in 1902, Seaforth had Catholic, German Lutheran and Congregational churches, a bank, a hotel, a creamery, a newspaper, and telephone service. The business directory for that year is as follows:

Baldwin, Ward & Co., bankers; Boltz, Herman, grain; Borte, Paul J., general store; Bulen, B. F., & Son, hardware; Bulen Pearl, music teacher; Byram, S. S., restaurant and notions; Cerny, Anton, jeweler; Choudek, John, furniture; Drews, Gustave, hotel and saloon; Farmers' Co-operative Creamery; Goudy, W. R., grain; Grams, A. C., meats; Jellison, E. R., physician; Johnson, George H., live stock; Kohl, W. J., saloon; Kramer, M., & Co., general store; Longbottom, John, & Son, farm implements; Maxa, Mrs. Mary, general store; Milbradt, A. W., general store; Milbradt, C. W., harnessmaker; Moulster, Fred S., general store; Moulster, George, grain; Mushek, F., fuel; Nestaval, Joseph, saloon; Palmer, J. J., drugs; Pavék & Ousky, wagonmaker; Pearson & Schmitz, livery; Queal, J. H., & Co., lumber and coal; Seaforth Concordia Band, Anton Cerny, leader; Seaforth Item, Roy Tuttle, publisher; Seaforth Orchestra, Anton Cerny, leader; Schmidt & Anderson, grain elevator; Schulz, John, blacksmith; Southwick, W. S., railroad, express and telegraph agent; Stanek, F. V., hardware; Svea, John, shoes, Tuttle, Roy, publisher Seaforth Item; Van Selus, A. J., blacksmith; Youmans, C. M., Lumber Co.

In 1904 the business directory showed these names: Ayers, Wm., feed mill; Baldwin, H. A., Land & Loan Co., C. B. Allen,

agent; Bank of Seaforth (capital \$6,000), H. A. Baldwin (president), Charles M. Allen (cashier); Borte, Paul J., general store; Bulen, Benj. F., & Son (Benj. F. & Chauncey), hardware; Choudek, John, furniture; Cleveland, W. E., creamery; Donnelly, Michael, saloon; Drews, Gustave, proprietor Hotel Drews; Francois & Schmahl, Wm. Houck, manager, general store; Goudy, Wm. R., grain; Hotel Drews, Gustave Drews, proprietor; Johnson, George H., live stock; Johnson, Wilbur R., jewelry and drugs; Longbottom, Edward, meats; Masek, Frank, fuel; Maxa, Mrs. Mary, general store; Mielke, Chas., saloon; Milbradt, August W., general store; Nestaval, Joseph, saloon; Ousky, Frank, wagon-maker; Pearson & Schmitz, livery; Queal, J. H., & Co., C. V. Palmer, agent, lumber and coal; Schmidt & Anderson, Frank Hassenstab, agent, grain elevator; Seaforth Item, Glen R. Tuttle, publisher; Stanek, Frank V., hardware; Tuttle, Glen R., publisher, Seaforth Item; Van Selus, Andrew J., blacksmith; Wagner, Michael, harnessmaker; Youmans, C. M., Lumber Co., Paul Jaehm, agent.

Okawa (Seaforth) was surveyed on Oct. 8, 1899, for the Western Town Lot Company, by J. C. W. Kline. The plat was filed Oct. 20, 1899. The village was located in a part of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 29, town 112, range 37. All streets were 70 feet wide, except Main and Oak streets, which were each 80 feet wide, and Front street which was 60 feet wide. There were six blocks, each having ten lots, except blocks 1 and 2, which run as far north as Front street, parallel to the railroad track. The streets running north and south beginning at the west are Dewey, Main and Schley; the streets running east and west beginning at the north are Front, parallel to the railway track, Oak, Elm and Pine.

Blocks 7, 8 and 9, addition of Okawa, was filed on Nov. 17, 1900. The land was owned by the Western Town Lot Company.

The petition for the incorporation of Okawa (Seaforth) was filed with the county commissioners Dec. 7, 1900, the proposed limits of the new village being in sections 29, 30, 31 and 36, township 112, range 37 (Sheridan township). The petition was granted and election ordered. The election was duly held in the A. O. U. W. hall, over the Sheridan Creamery building, in charge of B. F. Bulen, George B. Moulster and F. V. Stanek, and of the thirty-eight voting, every one voted in favor of the incorporation.

The population of the village on Dec. 6, 1900, according to the petition for incorporation was 185. The leading voters of the village, as they appear on the petition, were: B. F. Bulen, W. R. Goudy, C. E. Duncan, E. Longbottom, C. W. Bulen, W. C. Tabor, J. H. Hayden, Wm. Pratt, F. B. Hamilton, W. A. Longbottom, M. Kramer, A. Kramer, T. V. Kovanda, C. W. Milbradt, John Svea, J. C. Pratt, O. T. Drews, K. Daugherty, James O'Meary,



E. C. Barton, E. J. Smith, A. J. Van Selus, Albert Grams, Alvin Longbottom, John Choudek, John Maxa, F. V. Stanek, T. J. Boete, W. J. Kohl, Gust Drews, S. A. Durgin and E. R. Bollou.

The first officers of the village were: President, Geo. S. Moulster; trustees, W. J. Kohl, F. V. Stanek and Albert Grams; recorder, J. H. Hayden. The first council meeting was held March 12, 1901.

The fire protection of Seaforth is excellent: Volunteer fire department of ten men; one hose reel with 1,500 feet of 2½-inch hose, ladders (no truck); bell alarm; one Waterous gasoline fire engine, water supply from 30,000-gallon cistern under engine house and well at southeast corner lot 10, block 3; streets are slightly rolling.

There are three churches, Presbyterian, German Lutheran and Catholic. The Workmen, the Odd Fellows and the Catholic Order of Foresters maintain lodges here.

### VESTA.

Vesta, one of the most flourishing villages of Redwood county, is located just northwest of the central part of Vesta township, at the terminal of the Sanborn-Vesta branch of the Chicago & North Western Railroad, twenty-six miles northwest of Sanborn, eighteen miles west of Redwood Falls, and 166 miles southwest of St. Paul.

The generous width of its principal business street, the beauty of its residence section, its pleasant homes, and the spirit of the people, all tend to make Vesta a model rural village, and there are to be found here in abundant measure, the things which go to make village life attractive.

Having its beginning in the arrival of the Chicago & North Western railroad, the village grew rapidly in the winter of 1899-1900 and has since enjoyed a gradual period of increase and prosperity.

Not more than a decade before the village was started, much of the land in the vicinity was still unbroken, and the last great herds of cattle to be found in the county found good range here.

With the establishment of Vesta as a trading point, farm lands became more desirable, and farm conditions improved, while the prosperity of the rural regions also re-acted upon the village, causing it to grow in size and importance. Owing somewhat, possibly, to the market facilities of Vesta, and owing likewise to general conditions throughout the county, the year of 1916 saw a rapid rise in land values, many farms which had previously been valued at \$35 an acre, without improvements, jumping to \$85 and \$100 in value, and even higher.

To this desirable achievement, the bank, the elevators, the



newspaper, the schools, the railroad, and the churches have all contributed.

There are three sightly church buildings, the First Presbyterian, the German Lutheran and the Catholic. The Brethren hold meetings at private houses. The I. O. O. F. maintains a lodge here, and the M. W. A. holds regular meetings.

Excellent electric light service is furnished from a plant operated in the village building by H. M. Reichert and John Lempke. The plant also furnishes power for the waterworks system, the mains covering the principal streets, with sufficient hydrants and dead-ends for adequate fire protection. There is also a volunteer fire company, with adequate equipment, in charge of Fred Gertjeanssen. A nearby ditch will soon provide for drainage sewage, and later provisions will be made for a sanitary sewer.

Long before the village was started, a postoffice was opened in the township, under the name of Vesta. T. L. Cronley was the first postmaster. He kept the office in his home on section 22. Semi-weekly mail service was provided by stage to Tracy and Redwood Falls. The next postmaster was James Arnold, who kept the office at his home in section 22.

When the railroad was projected the original site considered was on the farm of Joseph McGlough, a quarter of a mile east of the present village. But the owner priced his land at a higher figure than the Town Lot Co. was willing to pay, and the present site was purchased from Ludwig Rosberg, at \$32 an acre. At that time the farm house of Mr. Rosberg stood north of the proposed site.

The site was at once surveyed by E. E. Gray for the Western Town Lot Co., on the north half of the southeast quarter, and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 16, township 112, range 38. There were eight blocks, four of which contained twelve lots each, and the others a lesser number. Broadway was laid out 100 feet wide, and all the other streets 66 feet wide, with twenty-foot alleys. The north and south streets, beginning at the west, were Pine, Elm, Broadway, Oak and East streets. The east and west streets beginning at the north were North, Center and Front streets.

Four additions have since been made, one by Ludwig and Sophia Rosberg, and three by the Town Lot Co. The plat of Rosberg's addition was filed May 17, 1900. The plats of blocks 9 and 10 were filed Jan. 23, 1900; of blocks 11, 12, 13 and 14, on the same date; of blocks 15 and 16, and outlot A on March 25, 1910.

Dry, healthful, and desirable as Vesta now is, it was originally platted in a slough. The first land sale was held on Nov. 3, 1898, by S. A. Hoyt and Harvey Harris, both from Sherburn, Minn., and representing the Town Lot Co. The sale was held from the

rear end of a farm wagon, standing in the midst of a slough, the high weeds and wet high grass being trampled into the mud by the eager buyers. The first sale was made to Mrs. J. S. Byington, who purchased lot 12, block 3, for \$200. Shortly afterward, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Byington moved a cook shanty which had been used for harvest hands, onto lot 12, block 3, and started taking boarders, the establishment being called humorously "The Grand Central." The shack was later moved back and a building erected.

The railroad station, round house, water tank and the three elevators, Bingham Brothers, the Great Western Elevator Co., and A. L. Foster, were completed in December, business was started, and from then until the following spring many business houses were erected and opened, up and down Broadway, along Front street, and gradually spreading to other streets.

The first store was opened by Matz (August) & Schroeder (Herman), in a shack, 12 by 18 feet, in the rear of lot 6, block 7. Soon they erected a substantial building on that lot, a party wall separating the store from the hardware store of Macklenberg (R. L.) & Athey (A. E.) on lot 7, block 7. James Arnold moved the postoffice from his farm to the village, and F. H. Bendix, as his deputy, was placed in charge, the office being kept in the store of Matz & Schroeder. Some months later, H. R. Draper was appointed first postmaster for the village, and moved the office to a small building on lot 4, block 7, which is now occupied by the Vesta Hardware Co.

The first residence, aside from the farm house, was erected in December, 1899, by Joseph J. Schulte, on lot 9, block 10, the house now being owned by C. H. Whiting. The Foster elevator was moved east, off from the right of way. E. L. Cross erected a building on lot 4, block 6, and in this, Joseph J. Schulte opened a drug store. A livery barn was erected by Henry Keller, on lot 13, block 7. John M. Katzenberg opened a cobbling establishment on lots 11 and 12, block 7. The Bank of Vesta, with which was connected the office of the Redwood Land Co., incorporated, and a flourishing insurance business was erected on lot 10, block 7, and was opened in charge of S. A. Hoyt and Harvey Harris.

Anton J. Serbus erected a building on lot 9, block 3, and opened a barber shop and saloon. In the hall overhead school was later held.

H. R. Draper opened a general store on lot 4, block 7. Daniel Blanchard opened a meat market on lot 9, block 7. Nelson (Leonard F.) & Rawlings (Frank H.) opened a general store on lot 2, block 6. Gimmestad (A. O.) & Lewis (M. Eugene) opened a land office on lot 3, block 6, with Mr. Lewis in charge. Paul B. Gutknecht opened a meat market on lot 5, block 6.

Brophy (Thomas) & Radford (James H.) opened a machine

establishment on lot 21, block 6. Jacob J. Stepka opened a harness shop on lot 20, block 6. Joseph Dobias opened a saloon on lot 19, block 6. The Dobias Brothers opened the Northwestern Hotel on lot 18, block 6. Fred A. Urbach opened an undertaking and furniture establishment on lot 17, block 6. Gottfried Steinkraus established a shoe store on lot 15, block 2. Emil Kretzke opened a harness shop on lot 14, block 2.

John Kaufenberg moved a barn from his farm to lot 3, block 5, and opened a hotel. He and his family lived on the lower floor, and served meals there, while the beds for the boarders were located in what had been the hay loft. The experiences of the early pioneers of the village in this boarding house would make an interesting article. Conditions were crude, but a spirit of good feeling and friendliness prevailed, and even sleeping in a bed in a hayloft, with snoring companions in a dozen or so beds in the same loft, was better than sleeping on bank and store counters, as many of the men had previously been doing.

The village platted, and the business activities well started, a petition was drawn up on Dec. 21, 1899, asking for the incorporation of the village. The census of Dec. 18, 1899, showed a population of 200. The signers of the petition were: John Dolliver, O. E. Reynolds, Frank Kaufenberg, Thomas A. Miller, I. J. Cross, Ben. Migrant, Dell McChesney, August Segnes, W. R. Depew, W. E. Eischner, F. H. Bendix, J. L. Lee, H. R. Draper, Orville L. Draper, D. F. Sayles, A. J. Serbus, Mat. Pesch, J. S. Byington, E. L. Cross, J. M. Katzenberger, Stephen Klappenrich, Frank Dobesch, E. Shipka, C. Shipka, G. H. Rodes, Frank Ringenbach, Henry Keller, William Blackmore, R. C. Cross, M. C. Cross, M. E. Lewis, John Kaufenberg, John S. Westphal and William Busach. The petition was granted on Jan. 2, 1900, and an election ordered held in Brundage Hall, Feb. 6, 1900, in charge of O. E. Reynolds, Frank Ringenbach and Frank H. Bendix. Of the sixty votes cast on the proposition on Feb. 6, 1900, every one was in favor of the incorporation. The first village election was held Feb. 20, 1900, and resulted as follows: President, H. R. Draper; trustees, Frank Jaros, Frank H. Bendix, E. Crane; recorder, A. E. Hutchinson; treasurer, Jacob J. Stepka. John Dobias was the first marshal. The present officers are: President, Charles R. Terhell; trustees, Fred Gertjeanssen, J. J. Smith and C. H. Whiting; recorder, W. J. Barber; treasurer, Frank Bendix.

The village continued its growth in 1900 and 1901, and when the Northwestern Gazetteer was issued in 1902, Vesta is described as an important and flourishing center, with Lutheran and Presbyterian churches, a graded school, a fire department, a bank, two hotels and several boarding houses, three grain elevators, a creamery, an opera house, a brick yard and several large stores, as well as a weekly newspaper, and excellent long distance tele-

phone, express, telegraph, railroad and mail service. The business directory in that issue shows these activities: Bennett, Adrian A., notary public; Aarseth, Knute M., photographer; Bank of Vesta (private—Gold, Stabeck & Co., proprietors); Bingham Brothers, Louis R. Dudrey, grain elevator; Blackmore, William H., saloon; Blanchard, Daniel, live stock; Brophy & Radford (Thomas Brophy and James H. Radford), farm implements; Brundage, George H., general store; Cross, George H., general store; Dahlgren, John, painter; Draper, Henry R., general store; Foster, Abraham L., justice of the peace, grain elevator and fuel; Gallagher, Charles A., brick manufacturing; Gimmetstad & Lewis (A. O. Gimmetstad and M. Eugene Lewis), real estate; Grand Central Hotel, Herbert W. Towne, manager; Gray, Frank D., physician; Gutknecht, Paul B., meats; Haley, Michael, well borer; Heger, Nicholas J. B., blacksmith; Hotel Vesta, John Kaufenberg, proprietor; Katzenberger, John M., shoemaker; Katzenberger, Charles, barber; Kojetin, Frank; Kratzke, Emil, harness-maker; Lee, Richard W., dray; Loersch, Mrs. Ulrica A., general store; Lyford, B. Frank, restaurant; Macklanburg & Athey (Rudolph L. Macklanburg and Arthur E. Athey), furniture, hardware and farm implements; Mather, Henry, saloon; Matz & Schroeder (August Matz and Herman Schroeder), general store; Minnesota Elevator Co., Henry J. Arnold, agent; Nelson & Rawlings (Leonard F. Nelson and Frank H. Rawlings), general store; Queal, J. H., & Co., Orrin E. Reynolds, agent, lumber; Redwood County Land Co., Harvey Harris, secretary; Reichart, Haskill, blacksmith and machinery; Reynolds, Orrin E., general store; Rickell, James, livery; Sayles, David F., drayman; Schulte, Joseph J., druggist; Scott, James, general store; Serbus & Marquardt (Anton J. Serbus and Herman Marquardt), saloon; Smith, Julius J., mason, Steinkraus, Gottfried, shoes; Stepka, Jacob J., harnessmaker; Stewart, John A., railroad express and telegraph agent; Suda, August, shoemaker; Swenson, Magnus, wagonmaker; Teorey, Samuel, photographer; Tout, Frederick, painter; Tuttle, Fred G., editor, Vesta Bright Eyes; Urbach, Fred A., furniture; Vesta Bright Eyes, Morgan E. Lewis, proprietor, Fred G. Tuttle, editor; Vesta Creamery Co., O. T. Sunde, manager; Vesta Opera House, George H. Brundage, manager; Wistad, Gunder T., blacksmith; Youmans, C. M. Lumber Co., William R. Baade, agent; Zehetner, Frederick, blacksmith.

### WABASSO

Wabasso is a thriving village of some 500 people, located in Vail township, on the Sanborn-Vesta and Evan-Marshall branches of the Chicago & North Western. It is in the geographical center of the county, surrounded by some of the best farming country

in southern Minnesota. An abundance of water is found some fifty feet below the surface, and artificial drainage has added greatly to the value of the land.

Fire protection is of the best. The volunteer fire department consists of some twenty members, and the bell on the water tower can be heard all over the village. The fire department has two hose carts, 1,200 feet of 2½-inch hose, and one hook and ladder truck.

The waterworks system consists of a 2,000-barrel tank on a 100-foot tower, supplied from a well by one Fairbanks-Morse single plunger pump, with a 35-gallon capacity a minute, and operated by a gasoline engine. There is also a Waterous gasoline engine pumping from three cisterns around town. The street water system consists of 500 feet of 8-inch, 2,000 feet of 6-inch, and 400 feet of 4-inch mains, with ten double hydrants and three dead ends.

There is no sanitary sewer, but private septic tanks supply this need, and a nearby county ditch provides an outlet for the drainage from the creamery and from the cellars.

The schools are of the best, and in 1916 rooms have been rented so that the course will be extended to include three years of high school work. The school grounds are excellently kept, and provided with a full athletic equipment.

Electric lights for streets, business houses and homes will be provided in October, 1916, by the Peoples Light & Power Company of Lamberton.

The city hall is a pretty structure erected in 1902. It houses the fire department and the village offices, and is well equipped with scenery and the like for the best of theatrical attractions. It also provides a good meeting place for all public purposes.

A Commercial Club has been of importance in fostering a "get-together" spirit among the merchants.

There are three churches—Catholic, Presbyterian and Evangelical.

Henry Meyer, a farmer, who settled here in the early days, was the first settler near the present village. The Sanborn-Vesta branch of the Chicago & North Western came through in 1899, and building operations were commenced in December, 1899. Among the early business interests were: Francois & Schmahl, general store; Koenig & Schmid, hardware; Schmidt & Anderson and Bingham Brothers, elevators; Gold-Stabeck State Bank; C. M. Youmans & Co., and J. H. Queal & Co., lumber yards; A. F. Fischer, hotel and grocery; R. A. Leistikow, general store; Gebhardt & Roth, farm machinery; Brandt & Zeren, harness shop. In the spring of 1900 Math. Schueller, William Stacken and Adam Zins each erected blacksmith shops.

When the Northwestern Gazetteer was issued in 1902, Wabasso was already a flourishing village. It then had Catholic, Presby-

terian, German Evangelical and Methodist congregations, a school, fire department, a bank, a hotel, four grain elevators, a flour mill and a weekly newspaper. A daily stage was operated to New Avon. Among the business activities were: Altermatt, Ernest, photographer; Barkuloo, Charles L., restaurant; Billington, Dayton E., drugs; Bingham Bros. (A. E. Wirtzler, agt.), grain elevator; Black Bros. (Frederick W. and Emil), general store; Braun, George, saloon; Callery, Kate, dressmaker; Chadbourn, Alfred G., physician; Chadbourn, Rufus G., justice; Ecke, Otto C., meats; Ells Bros (John and Martin), livery; Fischer, Emil, grocer; Francois & Schmahl (Wm. A. Hauck, manager), general store; Franta & Lockway (Nicholas J. Franta and John C. Lockway), flour mill; Gebhard & Roth (Joseph Gebhard, John Roth) farm implements; Graham, Frank K., livery, feed and sales stable; Groebner, Joseph, farm implements; Hassenstab, Albert L., furniture; Hassenstab, Mollie, milliner; Hoefer, Charles, saloon; Koenig & Schmid (John Koenig and Wolfgang Schmid) hardware; Lang, Thomas J., justice; Leistikow & Durbahn (Rudolph A. Leistikow and Jacob Durbahn), general store; London, Robt. D., railway, express and telegraph agent; Lucas, Herman E., physician; McKee, Robert E., barber; McNeill & Sons (Daniel G., Daniel G., Jr. and Benjamin) carpenters; Mahler, Wm. F., publisher Wabasso Standard; Mantel, George, auctioneer; Meyer, Christian, mason; Minnesota Elevator Co. (Wm. A. Anderson, agent); Pierce & Harriott (Squire L. Pierce and Edw. E. Harriott) lawyers; Queal, J. H. & Co. (E. C. Barton, agent), lumber and coal; Rahskopf, John H., hardware and furniture; Roberts, James A., painter; Sacke, Joseph T., saloon; Schaefer, Charles F., real estate; Schmid & Anderson Grain Co. (Emil Howe, agent), grain elevator; Schmitz, Bernard J., saloon; Schoenecker, Henry C., harness-maker; Schueller, Mathias, blacksmith; Stacken, Wm., blacksmith; Starken, Cornelius, saloon; State Bank of Wabasso (capital \$10,000), Wm. H. Gold, president; Oliver T. Newhouse, cashier; Towne, Grant C., proprietor Wabasso Hotel; Wabasso Farmers' Grain & Fuel Co., Leo Altermatt, president; John McPhee, secretary; Adam A. Washburn, treasurer; E. S. Beynon, agent; Wabasso Hardware Co. (Edward H. Heins, James T. Horr, Thomas B. McIlrath); Wabasso Hotel, Grant C. Towne, proprietor; Wabasso Livery Barn, F. K. Graham, proprietor; Wabasso Standard, Wm. F. Mahler, publisher; Waldow, Ernst, farm implements; Waldron, Sylvester N., jeweler; Youmans, C. M., Lumber Co. (Chas E. Bush, agent); Zins, Adam W., blacksmith.

In 1904 the village had still further grown, and the Gazetteer shows these activities: Alex, Conrad M., saloon; Altermatt, Lee, meats; Bebermeyer, Henry J., furniture and undertaking; Benz, Delia, grocer; Billington, Dayton E., drugs; Bingham Bros., Scott Peck, agent, grain elevator; Black Bros. (Frederick W. and Emil),



general store; Boltz Bros. (Herman and Charles), livery; Braun, George, saloon; Chadbourn, Alfred G., physician; Citizens State bank (capital \$15,000), Abraham J. Welden, president; Albert W. Mueller, cashier); Franta & Lockway (Nicholas J. Franta and John C. Lockway) flour mill; Gebhard & Roth (Joseph H. Gebhard and John H. Roth), farm implements; Gleason, Clark A., publisher Wabasso Standard; Goblirsch Bros. (Geo. and Andrew), general store; Groebner, Joseph, farm implements; Harriott, Edward E., lawyer; Hewitt, J., Sons (Jerome, Ernest and Pearl), draymen; Hoffman, John J., jewelry, music and photographer; Hotel Wabasso, Peter Welter, proprietor; Johanneck, Mrs. John, milliner and dressmaker; Lang, Thomas J., justice; Leistikow & Durbahn (Rudolph A. Leistikow and Jacob Durbahn), general store; Lockway, Andrew, painter; McKee, Robert E., barber; McNeill, Daniel G., carpenter; Mantel, George, auctioneer; Meyer, Christian, mason; Mueller, Albert W., lawyer; Queal, J. H. & Co. (Louis Wertzler, agent), lumber and coal; Rahskopf, John H., hardware and furniture; Redwood County Rural Telephone Co., Nora Tradewell, operator; Richardson, Geo., restaurant; Sacke, Joseph T., saloon; Schmid & Anderson Grain Co. (Emil Howe, agent), grain elevator; Schmitz, Bernard J., saloon; Schneider, Anton A., grocer; Schoenecker, Henry C., harnessmaker; Schueler, Mathias, blacksmith; Sparling, Henry L., railway, express and telegraph agent; Stacken, Wm., blacksmith; Starken, Cornelius, saloon; State Bank of Wabasso (capital \$25,000; Wm. H. Gold, president; Oliver T. Newhouse, cashier); Wabasso Farmers' Grain & Fuel Co. (John Price, president; John Arends, secretary; Wm. Kurtz, treasurer; T. J. Tradewell, agent); Wabasso Hardware Co. (Edward H. Heins, James T. Horr and Thomas B. McIlrath); Wabasso Standard, Clark A. Gleason, publisher; Welter, Peter, proprietor Hotel Wabasso; Western Elevator Co. (Wm. J. Blackman, agent); Westinghouse, B. J. & Co. (Bert J. Westinghouse and Geo. Bockman), jewelers; Westinghouse & Stacken (Mabel Westinghouse and Mrs. Wm. Stacken) milliners; Youmans, C. M., Lumber Co. (Wm. R. Baade, agent); Zins, Adam M., blacksmith.

The postoffice, the lumber yards, the mill, the newspaper and the bank have been important factors in the economic growth of Wabasso. J. H. Rashkopf became the first postmaster in 1900. He was followed in 1904 by D. E. Billington, and in 1915 by Jos. Groebner. A flour mill was built in the early days, and was destroyed by fire of unknown origin in 1913. The State Bank was the first bank here. It was consolidated with the Citizens State Bank, built here in 1903. Another bank is now being organized. The Wabasso Standard, a weekly newspaper, was first published by W. F. Mahler, in April, 1900, and passed through several hands before the present owner. Edward G. Weldon purchased it from Weicks & Truedson in 1909. C. M. Youmans Lumber Co.,



now the only lumber yard here, absorbed the J. H. Queal & Co. yard some years ago. Geo. Snyder is the manager.

Wabasso is 158 miles from St. Paul, eighteen miles northwest from Sanborn, and about the same distance southwest from Redwood Falls. Owing to its central location, the village has become a candidate for county seat honors, and it is believed that a well-organized attempt to move the county seat here is about to be made.

Wabasso was surveyed Sept. 30, 1899, for the Western Town Lot Company by J. C. W. Kline. The plat was filed for record Oct. 20, 1899. The village was located in the southeast quarter and the east one-half of southwest quarter of section 23, town 111, range 37. The plat consisted of four whole blocks and two fractional blocks, each containing ten lots, except lots 4 and 7, which run to Front street, which is parallel to the track. All the streets are 70 feet wide, except Main and Oak, which are 80 feet, and Elm and Front, which are 60 feet wide. The north and south streets beginning from the west, are: Front, Elm, Oak, Cedar and Pine. The east and west streets beginning at the north are: North, Main and South.

The plat of blocks 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, addition of Wabasso was filed Sept. 7, 1900. The land was owned by the Western Town Lot Company. The plat of blocks 22 to 28, inclusive, and outlots A to R inclusive, addition to Wabasso, was filed April 2, 1912. This land belonged to the Western Town Lot Company. The plat of outlots S. T and U, addition to Wabasso, was filed Dec. 15, 1913. The land was owned by the Western Town Lot Company. The plat of Braun's block addition to Wabasso was filed on Dec. 31, 1902. This land was owned by George and Bertha Braun. The plat of blocks 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and the south one-half of blocks 13 and 14, and the subdivision of lot 6, in block 15, addition to Wabasso, was filed June 20, 1901. It was owned by the Western Town Lot Company. The plat of blocks 8, 9, 10 and 11, addition to Wabasso, was filed Jan. 23, 1900. It was owned by the Western Town Lot Company.

Wabasso was incorporated in 1900. On March 17, 1900, the census of that date having shown a population of 184, a petition was drawn up, asking the commissioners to incorporate parts of sections 23 and 26, township 112, range 37. The petition was granted April 23, and an election called for April 28, 1900. The election was duly held in charge of G. H. Probett, A. E. Wertzler and Otto Schmidt, and of the forty-eight votes cast, all were in favor of the incorporation.

The signers of the petition asking for the incorporation were: Fritz Fischer, F. S. Begnon, R. A. Leistikow, J. P. Mondloh, Dr. H. E. Lucas, A. W. Bius, J. H. Rahskopf, P. H. Probett, A. E. Wertzler, P. J. Soukup, Mathias Schueller, J. A. Johnson, Dan

C. McNeill, J. C. Sturtz, J. P. Horn, Thomas J. Lang, Raymond Brophy, Wallace Cady, John W. Fiebigger, M. W. Welter, J. R. Hocking, Ben. T. McNeill, F. W. Black, Chas. Hoefer, R. S. Dawley, R. D. Laudon, D. R. McNeill, J. I. Smith, R. E. McKer, George Ells, Ernst Waldow, Joseph P. Sackl, Jr., Willie Stacker, Nels Zeren, Herman Schwartz, H. E. Hocking, G. S. Wertzler, Fred A. Zedler, William Werner, Amil Wolf and O. T. Newhouse.

The first council consisted of: President, Frank Black; trustees, Frank Hassenstab, Frank Weber and V. Brant; recorder, H. Probit.

### WAYBURNE.

Wayburne is a small hamlet on the town line between section 33, Morgan, and section 4, Brookville. It is located on the Evan-Marshall branch of the Chicago & North Western.

The original plat of Wayburne was filed March 24, 1902. The land was surveyed by F. R. Kline for the Western Town Lot Company in Feb. 22, 1902. This land was in the north one-half of northwest one-quarter of section 4, town 110, range 34. It contained one whole block and three fractional or unequal blocks. One of the streets was 80 feet and the other two were 70 feet wide. Each of the two alleys was 20 feet wide. The north and south streets beginning on the west are Walnut and Main. First street runs east and west.

### WALNUT GROVE.

The vicinity of Walnut Grove has attracted attention since the earliest days by reason of its seventy acres of heavy black walnut. No explanation has ever been made of the presence of these great trees in a region where other trees grew but sparsely, and in a spot far removed from any other groves of the same species.

Trappers and traders are believed to have been familiar with this grove in the early days of the nineteenth century, and possibly earlier. Tradition tells of a cabin built by a lonely pioneer within the confines of the grove.

At the time of the massacre, John F. and Daniel Burns, members of the Lake Shetek settlement were living in the grove, trapping and raising hogs. They made their escape on the opening day of the Shetek massacre. The soldiers doing patrol duty, often camped in the grove, and killed off the Burns' hogs one by one.

About 1866, Joseph Steves came to the grove and erected a cabin over a partially dug cellar, on which site a shack had evidently been erected some years previous. At the time he came, and for some years thereafter, the lookout pole used by the soldiers was still standing, as was also the rude stables used by their

horses. About 1867 the Steves family was awakened by noises in the grove, and prepared themselves to meet a large body of Indians. Instead of Indians, the visitors proved to be the United States surveyors, who came to survey Springdale, the township of North Hero having been surveyed before the massacre.

The first settler in North Hero township was Eleck C. Nelson, who came in 1871. He is still living in Walnut Grove, engaged in business as a stock buyer.

An early settler in North Hero was Thomas Allen. Allen then a young man of twenty-five years, came to this locality, and after looking about, filed on the southwest quarter of section 20. He then returned to his home and spent the winter. In the spring of 1872 he came back, driving an ox team, and reaching here ahead of the railroad which was put through that year. Mr. Allen still lives in Walnut Grove.

About the time that Allen came, Charles Lund drove in. He passed on and took a claim north of the grove, in section 34, Johnsonville township. He now lives in the village of Walnut Grove.

In 1873 there came quite an influx of settlers. The railroad, built in 1872, had suspended operations through the hard winter, but in the spring of 1873 regular service was established.

Among the earliest settlers were Elias and Lafayette Bedal. The first building on the site of the present village of Walnut Grove was the claim shanty of Elias Bedal. It was in 1873 that Lafayette Bedal was appointed the first postmaster, a position he held until 1879, when J. H. Anderson received the appointment.

Early in 1873 Gustave Sunwall and J. H. Anderson came to Walnut Grove or North Hero township and built a store building, stocking it with a general line of goods.

Progress was slow during the grasshopper years, but in the late seventies things took on a new aspect, and the village grew rapidly. The Gazetteer of 1880 describes Walnut Grove as a flourishing place, with a Congregational Union church, a steam flour mill, a good school, and several business enterprises. Wheat, barley and oats were then the principal shipments. The directory for that year shows the following business activities: Barnes, E. B., lumber dealer; Bedal, E., grain and lumber dealer; Burns, D. W., groceries and provisions; Byram, J. L., justice of the peace; Clementson C., hotel; Comstock, John S., express and railroad agent; Fitch, John R., general store and farm implements; Hills, F. H., hardware; Hoyt, R. W., physician; Hoyt & Anderson, druggists; Longnecker, S. A., furniture; Masters, S. O., justice of the peace; Masters, W. J., hotel; Nelson, E. C., meat market; Owens, W. H., general store; Quarton, T. M., blacksmith; Sandquist, Paul, & Co., saloon; Simmons, Rev. H. C. (Congregational); Sinkler, A. F., blacksmith; Thompson, Daniel, constable;

Thorp D. M., lawyer; Tunis, Rev. G. S. (Methodist Episcopal); Webber, C. L., farm implements; Webber, N. W., groceries and provisions; Young, C. E., restaurant.

In 1882, these business houses are shown: Anderson, J. H., druggist; Burns, D. W., & Son, grocers; Comstock, J. S., railroad and express agent; Every, H., hotel proprietor; Hills, F. H., hardware; Holt, Robert, meat market; Hoyt, R. W., physician; Laird, Norton & Co., lumber; Longnecker, S. A., furniture; Maloy, James, saloon; Owens, W. H., general store; Page, Moses, shoemaker; Powell, Rev. (Methodist); Richards, W. J., justice of peace; Scharff, H., confectioner; Simmons, Rev. H. C. (Congregational); Spurr, C. B., blacksmith; Swaffer Bros., general store; Thorp, Quarton & Whitney, lawyers; Webber, C. L., general store.

The business houses for 1884 were as follows: Burns, D. W., grocer; Byram, James L., justice of the peace; Carlson, Andrew S., druggist; Chadbourne, R. G. grocer; Davlin, E. L., railroad and express agent; Erickson, E. S., blacksmith; Geese and Olson, hotel proprietors; Hills, F. H., hardware; Kidder, Rev. J. (Congregational); Laird, Norton & Co., lumber; Maloy, James, saloon; Masters, W. A., hotel proprietor; Owens, W. H., general store; Page, Moses, shoemaker; Powell, Rev. (Methodist); Scharff, H., confectioner; Swaffer Bros., general store; Thorp & Quarton, lawyers; Van Buskirk, H. B., physician; Way, Asa, meats; Webber, C. L., general store.

The original plat of Walnut Grove was filed on Sept. 10, 1874. The land was surveyed for Elias and Lafayette Bedal by E. G. Pahl. Each street was 80 feet wide, except Sixth and Main streets, which were each 100 feet wide. The plat consisted of twenty-four blocks, all full blocks except 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16 and 17. The full blocks contained twelve lots each. The streets running north and south beginning at the east are First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth. The streets running east and west beginning at the north are: Main, Bedal and Washington. The alleys are twenty feet wide, those on either side of Main and Sixth being thirty-five feet wide.

The plat of Masters' addition to Walnut Grove was filed Nov. 7, 1878. William J. Masters was the owner of the land. The plat of Wiggins' addition to Walnut Grove was filed Sept. 11, 1915. This land belonged to Jesse P. and Inga Wiggins. The plat of Remington Park addition to Walnut Grove was filed June 13, 1898. The land was owned by C. W. and M. J. Remington, his wife.

Walnut Grove was incorporated by act of the Legislature, approved March 3, 1879 (Chapter V, Special Laws of 1879). The territory incorporated was described as: "The southwest quarter of section 19, township 109, range 38; the southeast quarter of section 24, township 109, range 39; the northwest quarter of sec-

tion 30, township 109, range 38; and the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 25, township 109, range 39. The incorporation was under Chapter 139, of the General Laws of 1875, certain additional powers, however, being given to the council, and provision made that for certain purposes the parts of the new village lying in North Hero and Springdale should still be considered a part of those towns.

John H. Anderson, William H. Owens and A. F. Sinkler, were appointed commissioners to see that the provisions of the act were carried into effect. The first election was held March 10, 1879, and officers elected as follows: President, Elias Bedal; trustees, T. Quartan, J. Leo and C. Clementson; recorder, F. H. Hill, treasurer, W. H. Owens; justice, Charles Ingalls; constable, J. Russell.

Walnut Grove today is an enterprising village with many attractive features. It has four grain elevators, one stockyard for shipping purposes, one creamery manufacturing butter and ice cream, two banks, two dry goods stores, three general stores, two hardware stores, two exclusive groceries in addition to the grocery departments of the general stores, one clothing and men's furnishing store, one agricultural implement agency, two garages, one lumber yard, one harness store, two restaurants, one hotel, two barber shops, a splendid electric light plant, an extensive waterworks system, a newspaper, a cream and egg shipping depot, a pool hall, four churches, two blacksmith shops, one millinery store and one livery barn. The village is putting in cement curbing on its main street, to be followed with paving.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1873 by the presiding elder of the district, the Rev. Henning, a circuit rider, being placed in charge of this and other churches. Early meetings were held at the homes of the members, and later in Masters' hall. In 1883 the present church was erected and John W. Powell installed as pastor. It was occupied for three years without plastering. Under the pastorate of Rev. Harrington, in 1885, the church was plastered. It was dedicated in 1903, while Rev. J. Franklin was pastor. The present pastor, W. M. Gillis, has been in charge since 1908.

The Congregational church was organized in 1874 as the Union Congregation society. The first service was held at the home of James Kennedy until the church was finished. This society built the first church in Walnut Grove, although not the first church organized. The building erected in 1874 is the same one used at the present time. In 1903 the society raised money and built a neat parsonage adjoining the church, making a very good addition to the buildings being erected in the village. There are now 76 members of the church, and the Sunday school which is in healthy operation, has a membership of 68 to 70. The present pastor,

H. N. Hansen, has resigned to take active field work in the state for the Anti-Saloon league.

The Swedish Lutheran society is building a fine church, never having been represented in the village before. The new building will have assembly room on ground floor and basement with Sunday school room and fully equipped modern kitchen. The pastor is L. E. Sjolinder, who resides at Tracy. This society has owned and occupied a large church in Gales township for over thirty years, but the society has grown so fast of late that the district will be divided, Rev. Sjolinder supplying both places.

The Norwegian Lutheran church has been organized since 1883, when a few families of the faith decided to get together. The first pastor was Rev. Bernt Askevold, and it was through his personal activities that the congregation was assembled for organization on Dec. 10, 1883. After ten years of struggles the society called Rev. Hans Magelssen, who for nineteen years served them as pastor. Mr. Magelssen gave himself up entirely to the work here, but never succeeded in building a church. At the present time the outlook is for a new church in the near future. The present pastor, J. B. Rognlien, is optimistic and believes the society will occupy its own church soon. At present they hold their services in the Congregational church. They have a membership of fifty-nine.

The Roman Catholic parish has a building of its own, but the services are conducted twice a month by Father H. Cahill of Tracy. The present church was built in 1905 and the first pastor was Rev. Byrne. The church is growing rapidly and they hope to have weekly services in the near future. The society consists at the present time of 29 families, meaning about 200 members.

The schools of Walnut Grove are excellent. In the fall and winter of 1873 and 1874 Lafayette Bedal opened and taught the first school in North Hero township. It was held in his own house and had an attendance of fifteen scholars. The first school building was erected in 1875, a small wooden building standing where James A. Larson's residence now stands. This building sufficed until about 1883, when school district No. 23 was organized. About this time a movement was started to procure a better building, and bids were called for to put up a building on block 9, the present site of the village park. The old building was moved to the present site of the First State Bank, and used as a store building.

The new building was erected in 1884 and cost \$2,000. An addition to the house was built in 1889, making it large enough to house all grades from one to eight. In 1905 the building was damaged by fire and the agitation for a new building commenced immediately. During the year of 1906 the new building was erected on a five-acre tract at the south end of Sixth street, the



cornerstone laying taking place on May 23, 1906. The building was ready for occupancy at the beginning of the school year in September of the same year. The cost was \$17,750 and contained rooms for grades, high school and large auditorium. High school work commenced in 1906, but the full, complete high school course was not taken up until 1912. Domestic science and manual training were added and space provided for them in 1915. The independent school district of Walnut Grove now employs a principal, two high school teachers and four grade teachers.

Occupying one block square in the heart of the town, the village park is surrounded by tall, stately trees. Arrangements are being made to lay out walks, with flower beds, and to otherwise beautify this already attractive spot.

### WANDA

The railroad came through Willow Lake township in 1899, and the present site of Wanda was selected as the location of a future village. Mathias Eichten then owned the land, but was not living here, his residence in Section 28, Willow Lake, the present site of the Catholic church, being then occupied by a renter.

In the fall the elevators, the depot and the lumber yards were opened. The elevators were owned by the Western Elevator Co. (now owned by Albert Spaulding) and by Bingham Brothers (now owned by the Wanda Elevator Co.). The lumber yards were owned by C. M. Youmans & Co. (now owned by J. H. Queal & Co.), J. H. Queal & Co., and Eichten Brothers.

The winter presented a scene of busy activity in the village. Mat. Jennings erected a general store on lot 16, block 3. Eichten Bros. erected a hardware store on lot 18, block 2. Paul Doepke opened a hotel and saloon on lot 15, block 3. In a barn in the rear of the store lived a carpenter who was helping to erect the different buildings. John Drees erected a saloon on lot 13, block 3. Herman Wenzel opened a blacksmith shop.

The spring of 1900 opened most auspiciously for the new village. Many dwellings were erected, and the business of the hamlet increased. In 1901 Spaulding Brothers built an elevator.

In 1902 the business activities of the village as given in the Northwestern Gazetteer were as follows: Bauermeister, F. H., furniture; Becker, F. C., harnessmaker; Beack, John, meats; Dederichs, Mathew, livery; Doepke, Paul, hotel and saloon; Dooner, Edward J., farm implements; Dreis, John, saloon; Eichten Bros., hardware and lumber; Fitch, A., barber; Gebhard & Roth, farm implements; Jenniges, M., & Son, general store; Pffifer, V. F., railway, express and telegraph agent; Queal, J. H. & Co., lumber; Schneider, A. S., general store; Wanda Creamery Co.; Wenzel, Herman, blacksmith.



The growth of the village was rapid, and when the Gazetteer of 1904 was issued Wanda was a flourishing settlement, with Lutheran and Catholic congregations, three elevators, a hotel, a creamery, and with excellent railroad, express, telephone, telegraph and mail service.

The following business activities are shown in the business directory of that year: Alt & Altermatt (Edw. Alt and Geo. Altermatt), general store; Becker, Frederick C., harnessmaker; Bingham & Sons (H. C. Olson, agent), grain elevator; Black, John, meats; Callahan, Paul A., cashier State Bank of Wanda, real estate and loans; Commercial Hotel, Christ Leuther, proprietor; Dederichs, Mathew, livery; Doepke, Paul, saloon; Dooner, Edward J., farm implements; Eichten Bros. (Valentine P. and Mathias) hardware and lumber; Fitch, Amsden, barber; Gebhard & Roth, farm implements; Holznagel, Louis, blacksmith; Larson, Andrew, general store; Laux, Nicholas, saloon; Leuther, Christ, proprietor Commercial Hotel; Marwick & Sonysen (James Marwick and Christ N. Sonysen), general store, furniture and undertaking; Ohlson, Henry C., general store and hardware; Pffifer, Victor F., railway, express and telegraph agent; Queal, J. H. & Co. (Geo. W. Dubois, agent), lumber; Schmechel, John, saloon; Schmechel, John & Son, agricultural implements; Spalding Bros. (Albert Spalding, agent), grain elevator; State Bank of Wanda (capital \$10,000; M. Jennings, president; Paul A. Callaghan, cashier), collections a specialty; Wanda Creamery Co., Mathias Jenniges, secretary (three miles west); Western Elevator Co. (F. Blowdow, agent).

Wanda was surveyed for the Western Town Lot Company on Sept. 26, 1899, by J. C. W. Kline. The plat was filed for record on Oct. 20, 1899. The village was located in the southeast fractional one-quarter of section 19, in town 110, range 36. The plat consisted of six blocks, each containing ten lots, except blocks three and four, which extended as far east as the railroad track. All the streets are seventy feet wide, except Main and Oak streets, which are eighty feet wide, and all the alleys are twenty feet wide. The north and south streets beginning at the west are: Pine, Elm, Oak and Railroad, which last named runs in a north-west and southeasterly direction. The east and west streets beginning at the north are: North, Main and South streets.

The plat of blocks 8 and 9, addition to Wanda, was filed Nov. 22, 1901. The land was owned by the Western Town Lot Co. The plat of block 7, addition to Wanda, was filed June 29, 1901, by the Western Town Lot Co. The plat of block 10, and outlots A, B, C and D, addition to Wanda, was filed Nov. 29, 1912, by the Western Town Lot Co.

On Feb. 16, 1901, the citizens of the hamlet desiring to incorporate, a census was taken, and after ascertaining that the village

contained 178 people, the petition was duly drawn up and presented to the county board.

The signers were Paul Doepke, Mathias Eichten, Louis Sandberg, V. F. Pfeiffer, A. Spalding, O. C. Mueller, E. J. Duron, Peter Drees, Val. P. Eichten, M. Dooner, C. C. Bigelow, Alfred Balk, F. E. Wright, Henry Schrand, M. Jennings, A. Schmechel, H. Kuent, M. J. Eichten, A. A. Schneider, H. C. Ohlsen, F. H. Bauermeister, F. Bloedow, Dick Balk, Herman Wenzel, Fred C. Becker, A. L. Bigelow, Math. Drees, John Drees, Lee Mohler, Edward Dooner, E. J. Dooner and Ed. Toban.

The petition was granted, and an election ordered held in Eichten's Hall, April 10, 1901, in charge of Math. Jenniges, Math. Eichten and Paul Doepke. Of the thirty-four votes cast, every one was in favor of the incorporation. The village as incorporated included parts of sections 19, 20, 28, 29 and 30.

An election of officers was duly held, resulting as follows: President, Mathias Eichten; council, Math. Jenniges; H. C. Ohlsen and M. Dooner; recorder, F. Bauermeister.

At the election held March 11, 1902, M. J. Eichten, O. C. Mueller and Nick. Jenniges presided as judges. The officers elected were: President, J. A. Johnson; trustees, Math. Jenniges, M. Dooner and Albert Spaulding; treasurer, Paul Doepke; recorder, F. H. Bauermeister; justices, Math. Jenniges and F. H. Bauermeister; constable, Math. Dederichs and Nick. Jenniges.

The present officers are: President, Christ Leuther; trustees, Albert Spaulding, F. X. Schlumperger and Math. Dederichs; recorder, Paul Doepke; treasurer, P. J. Borte; justice of the peace, Math. Gorres; constable, Nick. Jenniges.

The village of Wanda, with its brick school, its brick Catholic church and parsonage, its sightly German Evangelical Lutheran church, its towering water-tank, its pretty grove, its neat business streets, its bank, and other thriving commercial buildings, presents a striking appearance.

The children of Wanda village originally went to school in a one-room schoolhouse in section 20, Willow Lake township. In 1900 a two-room schoolhouse was built in the village at a cost of \$2,400. The building is now remodelled into a sixteen-room residence. In 1912 the present large brick schoolhouse was erected.

St. Mathias Roman Catholic church, originally a frame structure, was erected in 1905, and was burned the same year. In 1906 it was replaced with the present imposing brick building. The priest's home, also a brick, was built in 1912.

The German Lutheran Evangelical church, a frame structure, was erected in 1902, and the minister's residence in 1911.

The burning of the Catholic church in 1905, and of Spaulding's elevator in 1908, are the only important fires that the village

has suffered. The fire department, with a fire house, and excellent apparatus, is a volunteer one, the chief being Paul Doepke.

The waterworks, with the pumping station and tower, were installed in the fall of 1913. Electric lights will be installed on the streets, and in the stores and residences, in the fall of 1916, the power being secured from Lamberton. The village has no park, but Spaulding's beautiful grove adds to the appearance of the city, and furnishes an ideal place for outings and picnics.

There are two fraternities, the Catholic Order of Foresters and the St. Peter Society, both connected with St. Mathias church.

### ABANDONED VILLAGES.

Cottonwood Crossing, an abandoned hamlet in Lamberton township, and Riverside, an abandoned river village in Honner township, are mentioned elsewhere, in connection with the histories of Lamberton and North Redwood.

Paxton was projected when the Sleepy Eye-Redwood branch of the Chicago & North Western was constructed in 1878. A village was laid out, the Cale brothers opened a small store, and S. F. Cale was appointed postmaster. After the store was discontinued Harvey Moore kept the postoffice at his house not far away.

The original plat of Paxton was filed April 18, 1879. This land was owned by Albert Keep, and surveyed by Arthur Jacobi on July 28, 1878. It was located in the west half of section 26, town 112, range 35. It contained four whole blocks and three fractional ones. The streets ran northwest and southeast, and northeast and southwest. The northwest and southeast streets were: Turrell, 100 feet wide, and Harriet, 80 feet wide. The northeast and southwest streets were: First, Second, Third and Fourth, all 80 feet wide.

**Authorship and Authority.** The material for this chapter has been prepared under the supervision of A. J. White, who, with the editor, made a personal tour of the county, studying local conditions in the villages, and interviewing leading citizens, as well as searching local records. The records of the plats were transcribed from the county records by Miss Lillian Jensen and others. The business directories from the Northwestern Gazetteers were transcribed by Miss Evelyn Bolin. The records of the incorporations were transcribed by Miss Lillian Jensen, from the county records, with the exception of the incorporations of Redwood Falls, Walnut Grove and Lamberton which are taken from the general laws of the state. Information regarding the early days of Lamberton, Walnut Grove and Redwood Falls, as well as of Riverside and Cottonwood Crossing, has been gleaned from the History of the Minnesota Valley published in 1882. The population figures are from State and Federal census returns.

Information regarding Seaforth has been furnished by John Longbottom and W. A. Hauck. Information concerning Sanborn has been furnished by Mrs. A. D. McRae, H. E. Kent and John T. Yaeger. Information concerning the early days of Delhi has been furnished by J. L. Borg. The article concerning Belview is by A. O. Gimmedstad. The other articles have been edited as follows: Lamberton, A. J. Praxel; Lucan, Anton Kramer; Milroy, William Duncan, Jr., Frank Taplin and M. W. Johnson; Wabasso, E. G. Weldon; Vesta, Harvey Harris; Clements, Otto Gerstmann; Wanda, Paul Doepke. Much of the information concerning these places was also furnished by the gentlemen who edited the articles. Chris Nielsen has furnished information concerning the early days of Revere. S. F. Scott, as well as Mr. Harris, was consulted in the preparation of the Vesta article. Village clerks in the various villages have placed their records at the disposal of the editor.

**Acknowledgment.** Charles W. Howe, now of Redwood Falls, has been engaged for some time in preparing historical and "boosting" booklets, in connection with the Commercial clubs of various villages. To his "Redwood County Directory," his "Forty Wonderful Years" (Morgan) and "A Half Century of Progress" (Walnut Grove), all published in 1916, the editors owe considerable of the information contained in this chapter. The manuscript of Mr. Howe's forthcoming work on Lamberton has also been consulted. Mr. Howe's booklets are carefully and thoroughly prepared, and well printed, and are a decided credit to the villages, the story of whose history and progress he thus preserves.

**References.** Plats of Redwood county townsites, in the custody of the register of deeds of Redwood county.

Records of the incorporations of Redwood county villages, found in the miscellaneous records in the custody of the register of deeds of Redwood county.

Records of the county commissioners of Redwood county, in the custody of the auditor of Redwood county.

"The Northwestern Gazetteer," published bi-annually by R. L. Polk & Co., 1876-1916.

"History of the Minnesota Valley," published in 1882.

Records of the individual villages in the custody of the village clerks.

General laws of the State of Minnesota, 1875; special laws of the State of Minnesota, 1876 and 1879.

Census reports of the State of Minnesota, for 1885, 1895 and 1905.

Census reports of the United States, for 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910.

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

**OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.**

(By N. W. Cobleigh.)

There has never been an Old Settlers' Association in Redwood county embracing the whole county. The meetings of the Renville County Association have, however, been well attended by the Redwood county pioneers who settled along the Minnesota river. In the southeastern part of Redwood county there has been a flourishing Old Settlers' Association.

This association was organized at the home of Christopher Whelan, in Sundown township, November 26, 1886. It came into being with twenty-six charter members, the number of members being later increased to seventy-six. The constitution and by-laws adopted contained the following: Preamble—A record of the early settlement of a community being a convenient reference, it becomes necessary in order to obtain the same and to further the interests of the community for the people to take united action in accomplishing their object. Therefore, the undersigned agree to form an association and be governed in their fundamental action by the following constitution: Article I. The title and name of this society shall be The Old Settlers' Association of Willow Lake, Sundown and Adjoining Towns. Article II. Any person, male or female, may become a member of this society (if the date of their settlement in the community be previous to the year 1880) by subscribing their names to the constitution and the payment of the sum of ten cents. Article III. The officers of this society shall be a president, two vice presidents, a secretary and treasurer, said officers to constitute an executive committee. The officers shall be elected annually by ballot and shall hold their respective offices until others are elected and consent to act. Article IV provided that the annual meeting of the society should be held on the last Thursday in November of each year, when the annual election of officers should take place; also that every member of the society should be entitled to vote at said election; that the secretary and treasurer should present their annual reports at the same; that special meetings of the society might be called by the president, or in case of his absence or inability, by one of the vice presidents; and that notice of the annual meeting should be inserted in at least one of the weekly papers of Redwood county. Articles V and VI defined the duties of the secretary and treasurer. Article VII provided for the appointment from time to time of such subcommittees as might be deemed necessary. Article VIII defined

the powers and duties of the executive committee; and a proviso for the amendment of the constitution by a two-thirds vote was contained in Article IX. It was also provided that no person serving as a member of either the executive or any sub-committee should receive any salary or pay for his services. The constitution was prepared by a committee of three, consisting of Dr. Hitchcock, Ira Sanford and W. F. Swetlan, acting with the secretary, N. W. Cobleigh. It was moved and carried that the picnic for the year 1886 be held at Ira Sanford's, the 19th of June, and the annual meeting be held at Ernest Wandrey's the following Thanksgiving. A committee of five was elected as a committee of arrangements to provide the necessary material for entertainment, the members composing it being Paul Wandrey (chairman), C. Whelan, Louis Whelan, W. Sanford and E. Thornton. A picnic was held in June of each year henceforth, these picnics being largely attended from all parts of the county, the attendance sometimes reaching 1,000 persons. Prior to 1890 no vehicles except lumber wagons were seen at these picnics, and some ox teams appeared. The county was sparsely settled and these occasions affording an opportunity for the settlers to get acquainted with their distant neighbors, were looked forward to with a great deal of interest.

The following is a list of officers from the dates of organization to the present time. Officers at date of organization, 1886: President, Christopher Whelan; vice presidents, Ernest Wandrey and Phillip Matter; secretary, N. W. Cobleigh; treasurer, P. O. Callaghan. 1887—President, E. Wandrey; vice presidents, Cris. Whelan, Sr., and F. Swetlan; secretary, N. W. Cobleigh; treasurer, P. O. Callaghan. 1888—President, Chris. Whelan; vice presidents, W. F. Swetlan and A. Tonak; secretary, N. W. Cobleigh; treasurer, P. O. Callaghan. 1889—President, C. Whelan; vice presidents, Jacob Lawrence and P. Deneen; secretary, N. W. Cobleigh; treasurer, P. O. Callaghan. The same officers were re-elected until 1896. 1896—President, Chris. Whelan; vice president, J. Lawrence; secretary, P. O. Callaghan; treasurer, M. Whelan; librarian, Josie Callaghan. 1897—The same officers were elected. 1898—President, Jacob Lawrence; vice president, C. W. Whelan; secretary, P. O. Callaghan; treasurer, M. H. Whelan. In the years 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1905 the same as above officers were elected. 1906—President, John T. Hajem; vice president, Martin Bredvole; secretary, J. J. Ryan; treasurer, Paul A. Callaghan. Since the above date the same officers have served.

The following list gives the names of those who have signed the membership roll, with date and place of nativity and date of settlement, in consecutive order: C. W. Whelan, 1820, Canada; 1873 (died June 13, 1898). Philip Matter, 1838, France;



1871. Ernest Wandrey, 1819, Germany; 1872. P. O. Callaghan, 1847, Ireland; 1872. J. J. Winegarden, 1836, —; 1872. Frank Swetlan, 1848, New York; J. B. Moore, 1850, Ohio; 1867. George Potter, 1865, Wisconsin; 1869. J. M. Baker, 1837, Ohio; 1878. Chris. Whelan, Jr., 1860, Canada; 1873. Paul S. Wandrey, 1861, Minnesota; 1877 (died November 4, 1897). Thos. McGuire, 1854, Canada; 1872 (died November 11, 1913). Charles A. Scott, 1822, Vermont; 1867. S. J. Bentley, 1827, New York; 1875. L. P. Whelan, 1862, Canada; 1873. A. B. Hubbard, 1834, New York; 1872. Frank Wohlfard, 1846, Illinois; 1872. E. J. Winright, 1850, Missouri; 1880. Thomas Moore, 1849, Indiana (died 1907); 1871. J. P. Weed, 1823, New York; 1872. D. J. Sheffield, 1833, New York; 1871 (died 1916). F. A. Kinman, 1854, Illinois; 1871. John Dooner, 1859, Canada; 1873. F. Murry, 1846, Ireland; 1874 (died August, 1902). Ira Sanford, 1830, New York; 1871. H. H. Tompkins, 1823, Wisconsin; 1872. M. H. Gamble, 1844, Wisconsin; 1872. N. Johnson, 1844, New York; 1874. Louis Matter, 1855, Minnesota; 1875 (died July 11, 1891). Henry Evans, 1831, England; 1872. George Evans, 1858, Indiana; 1872. N. W. Cobleigh, 1850, Mississippi; 1879. Patrick Deneen, 1835, Ireland; 1872. Jacob Wegal, 1856, New York; 1872. Jas. Dickson, 1845, Scotland (died December, 1914); 1872. M. Bredvold, 1849, Norway; 1871. H. C. Warnke, 1857, Germany; 1879. J. J. Ray, 1844, Canada; 1878. J. Lawrence, 1845, Norway; 1871. Peter Gorres, 1835, Germany; 1878. Thomas McCormick, —, Ireland; 1862 (died December 12, 1907). M. J. McCormick, 1860, Iowa; 1862. W. P. Cutting, 1823, England; —. C. Peterson, 1848, Denmark; 1872. J. S. Johnson, 1845, Denmark; 1872. Lars Torsen, 1819, Norway; 1871. Ole C. Oleson, 1849, Denmark; 1872. John T. Hojem, 1858, Norway; 1871. R. Jensen, 1842, Denmark; 1874. Peter Jorgenson, 1854, Denmark; 1875. Jacob Bredvold, 1841, Norway; 1875. Lars Bredvold, 1809, Norway; 1872. J. P. Meyer, 1830, Denmark; 1874. W. C. Meyer, 1864, Denmark; 1874. Henry Kagel, 1847, Germany; 1872. L. L. Bredvold, 1854, Norway; 1871. William Schultz, 1854, Germany; 1882. O. A. Fox, 1862, Canada; 1873. Theo. Jensen, 1843, Denmark; 1872. H. G. Nelson, 1845, Denmark; 1875. Nels Madason, 1843, Denmark; 1880. Peter Larson, 1847, Denmark; 1877. Jos. Seifert, 1858, Germany; 1882. W. H. Fox, 1815, New Brunswick; 1862. August Tonak, 1844, Germany; 1872. James John, 1840, Germany; 1885. Daniel Burns, 1836, New Hampshire; 1859. J. H. Gardner, 1838, Denmark; 1871. P. O. Clements, 1847, Sweden; 1871. Holmer Johnson, 1849, Sweden; 1884. J. O. Rude, 1860, Iowa; 1870. M. Duley, 1853, India; 1876. Leo Altermatt, 1850, Wisconsin; 1873. G. E. Bentley, 1862, Michigan; 1871. M. H. Whelan, 1866, Canada; 1873. W. Sanford, 1859, Minnesota; 1871.



## CHAPTER XXXVII.

**THE REDWOOD HOLSTEIN FARM.**

One of the important features in the development of Redwood county agriculture has been the Redwood Holstein Farm. It was the activities of Richard W. Sears and William H. Gold, the owners of this project, that first turned in this direction the attention of the Iowa and Illinois farmers, and started the influx of these desirable citizens to Redwood county. The coming of the experienced farmers from older parts of the country has brought about a rapid rise in land values in the past few years, and has also brought to the county a distinct advance in educational, agricultural and social life.

In speaking of the genesis of this movement, Mr. Sears himself has said: "Being a native of Minnesota, and having in my younger days resided in Redwood county, I gradually began, later in life, to invest in Redwood county lands.

"These purchases began on a basis of about \$10.00 an acre and gradually from year to year I made purchases at advancing prices, and at the present time (1914) these Redwood county land holdings would be valued conservatively at from \$65.00 to \$100.00 an acre.

"For years Redwood county was one of the great wheat-producing counties of the northwest and these lands were largely given over to the raising of wheat. The method of handling was such that I, as owner, would share in the crop with the renter, commonly on the basis that I, as owner, would furnish the seed and receive one-half of the gross proceeds of the wheat and other grains, the renter receiving the other one-half.

"For years the land in the county was turned over to the raising of grain, principally wheat, later gradually the more progressive farmers began to turn their attention to diversified farming and the number of cows in the county rapidly increased. Creameries sprang up here and there, part of the acreage formerly devoted to wheat was put in corn, hay and grains for feed, and as this evolution from the wheat-growing to the rather diversified farming developed, the lands rapidly increased in value, the county increased in wealth, bank balances in the different banks began to swell in volume, existing mortgages were paid off or renewed at much more favorable rates. The old straw sheds for cattle and horses gave way to large modern barns, good houses, outbuildings, wire fencing, a higher and higher state of cultivation and this work of a higher development is still aggressively going on.

"It was about this time that William H. Gold of Redwood Falls, of Minnesota, approached me concerning the purchase of a mortgage on a certain farm near one of mine, when I volunteered the remark that in my judgment it was too big a loan, and that he (Mr. Gold) was placing too high a per acre value on the property. I stated to Mr. Gold that I would be very glad to sell my land at a slightly lower price per acre than the land in question had by Mr. Gold been valued, whereupon Mr. Gold stated, 'If you will allow me to direct the management of these farms of yours and will subscribe to my method of transforming them into diversified farming, and will co-operate with me in developing a breeding farm for dairy purposes that will make money for us, it will not only develop but will further enhance every acre of your land and will stimulate the value of everybody's land in this territory. Do this, and while I won't agree to buy every acre of your land outright at the price you name, but I will be glad to buy one-half interest at your own price, as you have suggested.' The deal was closed immediately and Mr. Gold became a one-half owner in all my Redwood county lands and immediately he began the work of converting the various farms into a diversified class of farming, especially encouraging the dairy end. Mr. Gold contended that in dairying, as then conducted in Redwood county, there were a large percentage of cows that did not yield returns sufficient to pay their board; that a poor cow consumed as much food as a good one, and required as much labor and care as the good cow and the annual yield of the one might be but a fraction of that of the other. This condition in Redwood county, he contended, as in all other counties, would have to be corrected before any great measure of profit could come out of farming these lands, before we would have a right to claim from \$100.00 to \$150.00 values for our lands, before we could show a profit of 4 per cent to 6 per cent per annum on a \$200.00 per acre value.

"Mr. Gold contended we must first select better grades of cattle, we must cull out the poor cow, sell it, kill it, or in any way eliminate it from our herd, providing the cow was not producing a minimum of 350 pounds of butter-fat per year and would not bear a calf that would be worthy of its raising.

Mr. Gold's contention, immediately on becoming a half-owner in the Redwood county lands, was that on these farms we should work strongly into the dairy side, improve the grade of our cows by careful selection and elimination, and we must look for further improvement by introducing strong blood lines of the best milk and butter strains to be had. Mr. Gold insisted that in striving for the upbuilding of our dairy interests and the increase of earning power of our lands, we should take a very active part in bringing into Redwood county, and here developing one of

the best thoroughbred butter herds in the country. We agreed on this policy.

"On Mr. Gold's recommendation, we selected one of our choicest farms of about 600 acres, located in the central part of the county, about fifteen miles south of Redwood Falls, and about two miles from Wabasso. The farm was first put in good condition by a complete system of tiling, wire fencing, and cross fencing, proper stables, water system, needed buildings and equipment.

"Mr. Gold made his first selection of Holsteins, choosing from the very best families, the greater part of the herd being found in the different parts of New York state. With this foundation, by culling, eliminating, adding, strengthening, etc., one of the best herds in the country has been built up.

"We have received a large measure of encouragement in our efforts to upbuild our land values, thus working toward the bringing our land values up to an equal to the land values of \$100 and \$200 an acre in our nearby states."

The establishment of this herd, and the educational work conducted thereto, not only advertised Redwood county throughout the country, but brought an immediate improvement to Redwood county agriculture. The farmers found that the cost of keeping a poor animal as great as that of keeping a good animal, and the Holstein herd of Messrs. Gold and Sears made it possible for the farmers to obtain the best of blooded stock, at a reasonable price, and on favorable terms.

Mr. Sears and Mr. Gold disposed of a part of their lands from time to time, to renters, largely from Illinois, taking a small payment down, and the balance on easy terms, thus securing to Redwood county some very desirable farmers. This policy was followed up to the time of the death of Mr. Sears, in September, 1914, at which time the company still had about 3,000 acres of land which is still owned by the Sears heirs and William H. Gold. The Holstein cattle business was also continued to the time of Mr. Sears' death and then taken over by Gold, Wise and Gold, who developed 400 acres of land for the purpose of handling their herd three miles south of Redwood Falls, during the year of 1915. About \$20,000 was spent in barns, silos, tiling, fencing, etc. The herd now consists of 100 head, of the very choicest Holstein families in charge of Fred A. Wise and Glenn W. Gold, son of William H. The aim of the owners is to furnish foundation animals so as to increase the dairying business in Redwood county with the hopes of making a Holstein center such as exists in southeastern Minnesota, namely, at Northfield, Minn. It is apparent that a good animal means better buildings, better care and an increased interest and a help in keeping the boys on the farm and there is no part of farming so conducive to increased income as dairying.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

**DIFFICULTIES OVERCOME.**

The story of Redwood county is one of difficulties overcome. The setting aside of its most accessible land as an Indian reservation kept away the sturdy settlers who swarmed up the Minnesota in the fifties. The massacre of 1862 kept the settlers away for several years thereafter. The fact that the reservation land after the massacre was not open to homestead or preemption entry but was sold for a flat sum, and sometimes in large tracts, kept away those who were without ready funds. Prairie fires were also a discouraging feature. The grasshoppers of 1873-77 retarded the settlement during those years, and a blight followed the next year. The blizzards of 1873 and 1880 also gave the region a bad name among prospective settlers. The central part of the county was Internal Improvement land, and much of the southern part of the county was railroad land. When it appeared that there was to be a great influx of settlers after the grasshopper years, the rush came, but passed by on the way to Dakota, where land could be obtained free. In the early nineties came some big wheat years, and for several years thereafter the crops were of the best. In 1905 came the wet years. In 1913 and 1914 came the big corn years, but this was followed by the scourge of hog cholera. In various years, drought and hail, and blight have done much damage. Potato bugs, the cut worm, the cinch bug, and other insects have also been features with which the citizens have had to contend.

---

Even a superficial examination of the topography of the county reveals the geographical reason why the early settlements were along the Minnesota river, the Redwood river and the Cottonwood river. However, there is a much deeper reason than this why the population of the county for so many years resembled a hollow shell with so few people in the center. In the first place the railroad had vast holdings of alternate sections which, under the land grant, they took in this county in lieu of lands all ready settled, further to the eastward. In the next place there were no less than 90,000 acres of state internal improvement land located on the even numbered sections in the central part of the county. This internal improvement land was appraised at from \$5 to \$7 in the spring of 1878, and placed on sale in the fall of that year. However, soon after this land was put in the market, came the Dakota boom, and thousands of people made their way

to that territory, where they could obtain homesteads for nothing in preference to settling in this county, where they had to pay for their lands. In 1882 there was a constant succession of emigrant trains through this county, sometimes miles long. Another thing which retarded the settlement of the county by prospective land owners, were the vast tracts owned by speculators. Willard & Whitecomb, Willard & Barney, and Willard & Willard, owned some 30,000 acres in Yellow Medicine and Redwood county. The Commodore Davidson tract, purchased in 1868, consisted of 16,000 acres. Another tract of 16,000 acres was acquired at the same time, became the J. W. Paxton tract, later the O. B. Turrell tract and finally the Sanders & Gilfillan tract.

The spring of 1867 was cold and wet, and many of the pioneers endured intense suffering, so much so that the state came to the aid of the county and furnished seed and provisions. There was but little to eat during that spring except cornmeal, rutabagoes, bacon and fish. M. E. Powell tells of living at the Mills boarding house in Redwood Falls that spring, and going down to the river to catch the fish, which, with bacon and rutabagoes, furnished the only dishes on the menu.

In spite of the fact that so large a part of Redwood county was not open to entry under the homestead and preemption acts, the spring of 1872 opened most favorably. In the summer, however, came a series of hail storms, which wrought havoc to the crops, and on top of that came some of the most disastrous prairie fires known to the history of the county. Then came the terrible winter of 1872-73.

Winter began November 12. The day had been pleasant, but toward nightfall, those who were acquainted with the climate of the Minnesota valley, saw indications of a blizzard. At dark, a gale from the northwest struck the cabins, and the long, cold season had started. Snow fell to a depth of two feet, but was blown about and drifted until it was over twenty feet in some places.

From that date, there was little let-up in the severity of the weather. One storm followed another. Even when the storms were not raging the weather was cold and bleak. Travel was almost suspended. The new railroad through the southern part of the county had to cease operating entirely. Stages managed to reach the Redwood Falls once in a while, but sometimes there were many days when the people were absolutely without communication with the outside world. Many people suffered for want of food, fuel and clothing, and many severe cases of frost-bite were reported.

The year of 1873 started with a violent storm, and for the three days beginning January 7, there raged over this region the worst blizzard of its history. The temperature was from 18

to 40 degrees below zero, during the whole period of the storm. The air was filled with snow as fine as flour. Through every crevice, keyhole, and nailhole, the fine snow penetrated, puffing into houses like steam. Seventy human lives were lost in the storm in Minnesota.

The storm was ushered in by the pleasantest weather of the season. The forenoon of Tuesday, January 7, was mild and pleasant; the sky was clear and there was no wind. It seemed as though a "January thaw" was imminent. The pleasant weather had induced many farmers to go to the woods for a supply of fuel or with their families to the neighbors to visit.

In Redwood county many of the settlers started into the bottoms and the river valleys to get poles. In those days, timber on school land, on speculators' land, or on any other unoccupied tract, was considered legitimate booty. Many a settler, when asked where he had secured his wood, would reply, "On section 37," and the interrogator would at once understand that the settler had helped himself to wood to which he had no legal right.

The majority of the Redwood settlers were thus busily in cutting trees on the day of the Tuesday in question, when a sudden change in the weather was apparent. The sky lost its clearness and became hazy. About noon, a white wall could be seen bearing down from the northwest. The front of the storm was as distinct and almost as clearly defined as a great sheet. In a few minutes, a gale, moving at the rate of thirty or forty miles an hour, was sweeping the country. The air was so completely filled with flying snow and it was almost impossible to see objects even a short distance away.

The settlers had, in the meantime, started for home. Some reached their own cabins, some succeeded in getting to Redwood Falls, others sought refuge in deserted cabins, or in the cabins of friends.

All Tuesday night, Wednesday, and Wednesday night, the storm raged with unabated fury. Not until Thursday did the storm let up, and not until Friday was it entirely over.

Various experiences of Redwood county pioneers in this blizzard are related in various places in this history.

County Treasurer Robinson was among those who nearly perished. Being caught in the storm he burrowed a hole in the snow and there remained for three days, his only nourishment being secured by gnawing at his boot tops. It was several years before he recovered from the effects of this experience.

The deepest cause of discouragement and delay in the settlement of the county was the visit of the Rocky mountain locusts, lasting from 1873 to 1877, during which time very little was harvested. The eggs were laid in the prairie each year, and they hatched out just in time for the young hoppers to move into

the wheat fields, when the tender blades were two or three inches high, and to eat them off so close to the ground that it gave the appearance of a fire having passed over the fields. If anything had escaped their ravages, later in the season, on some fair day, a fleecy cloud might be seen between the observer and the sun, which would prove to be an invading host of these marauders, seeking something to devour. The farmers lost courage and in many cases were driven away altogether from the places where they had hoped to make their homes. Many others were compelled to leave their claims temporarily to procure means of subsistence for themselves and their families. The state did what it could to furnish seed grain on two or three occasions, and donations from the older counties relieved the situation in a slight degree; but, in any view, it was a most trying experience to the hardy and industrious pioneer families, who, at the best, could only maintain the position they had taken on the frontier by hard work and self-denial.

The spring of 1873 had opened favorably, a number of new settlers had come in, considerable land had been broken, and a good acreage planted and sowed. The grasshoppers first made their appearance in this county about the middle of June, 1873, and began their work. Not only did they destroy the crops that year, but they laid their eggs to be hatched out the next year.

All efforts to get rid of the hoppers were in vain. Ditches were dug, straw was burned, drags of sheet iron covered with coal tar, were tried, but while millions of the insects were killed their numbers did not seem to be diminished. Year after year they continued their work. A volume might be written of the ruin they wrought. They devoured everything green that could be found. They even ate the edges off from the boards on the houses and from the rails of the fences. Nothing that their sharp mouths could nip escaped their destruction. In Redwood Falls they cleared the lots and streets of every particle of grass.

Year after year the settlers planted crops only to see them destroyed in the summer. The settlers who put in their crops in 1877 were rewarded. The hoppers hatched out in May, but about the middle of July took flight. That year a banner crop was raised.

This caused much enthusiasm, high hopes were entertained for the future, and an increased acreage was broken and put in crops in 1878. But again the people faced disaster. Two weeks of excessive heat in the first half of July, followed by a week of excessive rains brought a crop failure. Wheat was so damaged and so poor in quality that it brought only a low price, and corn, oats and vegetables were not much more profitable.

The crops of 1879 and 1880 were good. Then came the terrible winter of 1880-81, a winter almost as severe as the winter of



1872-73. Blizzard followed blizzard. Winter set in with a blizzard on October 15, 1881, covering the county with a deep blanket of snow. After that came a little mild weather, but about the middle of November the elements began to rage again. Railroad operations ceased. Traffic was blocked on all the highways. As in 1873, communication with the outside world ceased.

The thaw started April 20, 1881, and the streams were soon raging torrents. Flood tide was reached April 24, and then the waters began to recede. Much damage had been done by the floods, dams were washed out, fences, outbuildings, and hay stacks carried away, and live stock drowned. The railroads were washed out in many places. The total loss was considerable.

In 1888 came another blizzard, possibly even more severe than any during the winter of 1880-81. On January 4, 1888, there came a thaw. This was followed by the severe cold of January 5, which covered the surface of the snow with an icy coating of considerable thickness. On the morning of Thursday, January 12, came another thaw. Then a few minutes after four in the afternoon, absolutely without warning, the blizzard broke. The storm increased in violence through the night, and though it abated somewhat at 8 o'clock Friday morning, it continued until Saturday night. Not until the next Tuesday was the weather and the roads such as to permit the snow-bound people to get news from the rural districts. The loss from frozen stock in Redwood county was especially large.

**Authority.** "Early Days in Redwood County," by O. B. Turrell, in the "Collections" of the Minnesota Historical Society.

History of Lyon County, Minn., by Arthur P. Rose, 1912.

Newspaper files and personal testimony of the old settlers.

## CHAPTER XXXIX.

### BANKS AND BANKING.

The banking industry in Redwood county dates from 1871, when W. F. Dickenson and George W. Braley reached Redwood Falls. George W. Braley established the Redwood County Bank, which, after successive changes, is now the First National Bank of Redwood Falls. W. F. Dickenson, with Major M. E. Powell, established the Bank of Redwood Falls, which, after successive changes, is now amalgamated in the State Bank of Redwood Falls.

The county now has twenty-one State banks and two National banks. The State banks are: The State Bank of Redwood Falls, the Redwood County State Bank, the Farmers' State Bank

of Belview, the State Bank of Belview, the State Bank of Clements, the Delhi State Bank, the State Bank of Lamberton, the Lucan State Bank, the State Bank of Milroy, the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Morgan, the State Bank of Morgan, the Security State Bank of North Redwood, the State Bank of Revere, the Farmers' State Bank of Sanborn, the Sanborn State Bank, the Security State Bank of Seaforth, the State Bank of Vesta, the Citizens State Bank of Wabasso, the First State Bank of Walnut Grove, the Walnut Grove State Bank and the State Bank of Wanda. The National banks are the First National Bank of Redwood Falls and the First National Bank of Lamberton.

**The First National Bank of Redwood Falls** had its beginning in 1871, when George W. Braley came to Redwood Falls and started the Redwood County Bank. In 1880 it was bought by Hial D. Baldwin and C. T. Ward. In 1891 the institution became a state bank, but retained the same name. May 28, 1901, it became a national bank, with A. C. Burmeister as president, Hial D. Baldwin as vice president, and Herbert A. Baldwin as cashier. The present officers are: President, H. A. Baldwin; vice president, A. C. Burmeister; vice president, Emil Kuenzil; cashier, F. W. Zander; assistant cashier, C. H. Baldwin; assistant cashier, Robert V. Ochs. The bank has a paid up capital of \$35,000; surplus and profits, \$13,500; deposits, \$480,000; loans and discounts, bonds and securities, \$440,000; cash and exchange and due from banks, \$95,000.

**The Bank of Redwood Falls.** William F. Dickinson came to Redwood Falls in 1871, and with Attorney M. E. Powell established the Bank of Redwood Falls. Later, a stock company was organized with a capital of \$10,000. In time, however, Mr. Dickinson acquired all the stock of this company. In 1891 it was made a state bank, still retaining the same name, with William F. Dickinson as president and George W. Dickinson, his son, as cashier. Mr. Dickinson died about 1900. In 1903 the bank was absorbed by the State Bank of Redwood Falls.

**The State Bank of Redwood Falls.** The Gold-Stabeck State Bank was organized at Redwood Falls in 1901. In 1903 the name was changed to the State Bank of Redwood Falls, and the old Dickinson bank absorbed. The capital of the Gold-Stabeck State Bank was \$25,000. This was increased to \$35,000 when the State Bank of Redwood Falls was organized. In 1912 it was increased to \$50,000. W. H. Gold has always been president, and John P. Cooper has always been vice president. The first cashier was William H. Wallace, later succeeded by R. A. Cooper. The assistant cashier is J. D. McLean. The bank has a paid up capital of \$50,000; surplus and profits, \$20,000; deposits, \$510,320; loans and discounts, bonds and securities, \$484,020; cash and exchange and due from banks, \$84,350.

**The Gold-Stabeck Land & Credit Co.**, then located at Renville, in this state, became interested in Redwood county about 1897, and opened a bank at Belview. In 1897 a bank was established by this company at Revere, and in 1898 banks were established at Wabasso and at Vesta. An office was opened in Redwood Falls in 1900, the Gold-Stabeck State Bank established the following year; and the State Bank of Redwood Falls in 1903.

**The Gold-Cooper Securities Co.** was organized in 1903 with a capital of \$25,000, for the purpose of handling first mortgage farm loans. J. P. Cooper has always been president, and W. H. Gold, secretary. Glenn W. Gold is the vice president.

**The Redwood County State Bank** was opened for business in 1916, with the following officers and stockholders: F. W. Philbrick, A. O. Gimmetstad, Fred M. Banker, Charles H. Winn, J. H. Melges, George A. Paton, Knute Hustad, J. F. Skinner, F. W. Orth, A. C. Dolliff, D. W. Banker, D. L. Bigham, A. M. Dennistoun and J. B. Philbrick. The officers are: President, F. W. Philbrick; vice presidents, George A. Paton and F. W. Orth; cashier, Knute Hustad; assistant cashier, J. B. Philbrick; directors, the officers together with A. C. Dolliff, A. O. Gimmetstad and F. M. Banker. The bank has a paid up capital of \$25,000; surplus and profits, \$5,000; deposits, \$14,000; loans and discounts, bonds and securities, \$28,720; cash and exchange and due from banks, \$14,850.

**First National Bank of Lamberton** was first organized as the Citizens State Bank of Lamberton, June 1, 1892, by L. M. Street, John Street, Frank Schandera, Charles Chester, Kedie Kneeland, Louis Chester, J. H. Roth, R. Morton, Henry Bendixen, Peter Reunitz, Peter Bendixen and W. C. Brown. The first officers were: Henry Bendixen, president; Charles Chester, vice president; John Street, cashier. In July, 1902, Henry Bendixen resigned as president and shortly after Wilson C. Brown was elected to fill that position. The capital stock and surplus was \$25,000.00. In August, 1901, John Street resigned as cashier and George J. Grimm became his successor. The first building occupied by the bank was a one-story frame, which stood on the site of the present two-story brick building, which was erected in 1893. On April 2, 1904, this bank was converted into the First National Bank, there being no change in the capital stock. The surplus, however, had increased to \$7,500.00. There was no change made in the official staff, except that H. M. England was elected assistant cashier. In May, 1915, Wilson C. Brown died, Frank Clague was subsequently appointed president. The bank has always done a strictly commercial banking business, has been careful and conservative, and is one of the few banks that has never yet issued a statement on which it was necessary to show any

"Bills payable" account. In the panic of 1907 it never refused cash in payment of a depositor's check. The following items are copied from its statement at the close of business September 12, 1916: Resources—loans and discounts, \$287,504.35; overdrafts, \$154.69; U. S. bonds and premium, \$28,500.00; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$10,736.90; cash and due from banks, \$40,704.12; total, \$367,600.06. Liabilities—capital, \$25,000.00; surplus, \$25,000.00; circulation, \$25,000.00; deposits, \$292,600.06; total, \$367,600.06.

**The State Bank of Belview** was established August 1, 1897, as a private bank, by W. H. Gold, F. O. Gold, Torsten Stabeck, H. N. Stabeck and William H. Wallace. Its capital was \$6,000.00. It was then called Bank of Belview. It was incorporated as a state bank February 1, 1902, with \$10,000.00 capital. January 10, 1911, the capital stock was increased to \$15,000.00. Surplus has been added annually and now amounts to \$10,000.00. The report to superintendent of banks, June 23, 1915, shows the deposits were \$182,820.25, loans and discounts \$182,104.02, and total footings \$207,860.25. The organizers of state bank in 1902 were: W. H. Gold, Deborah Adsit, E. Leatherman, Otto Goetze, H. D. Adsit, S. F. Peterson, H. P. Dredge, J. T. McKowen, A. J. Froelich, Ben Maus, G. F. Rahn, L. T. Braafladt, R. Hoppenrath, C. Knutson, Anton Weideman, C. Olson, Adolph Leonard, Daniel McKay and G. E. Adsit. The first officers were: W. H. Gold, president; C. Olson, vice president; J. M. Thompson, cashier, and Otto Goetze, assistant cashier. The officers have been as follows: 1903—J. M. Thompson, president; A. Leonard, vice president; A. F. Pottratz, cashier. 1904—J. M. Thompson, president; C. Olson, vice president; A. F. Pottratz, cashier. 1905—J. M. Thompson, president; E. Leatherman, vice president; A. F. Pottratz, cashier. 1906—January to May—J. M. Thompson, president and cashier; C. Knutson, vice president; Ernest W. Thorson, assistant cashier. 1906—From May 26—A. O. Gimmestad, president and cashier; C. Knutson, vice president; E. W. Thorson, assistant cashier. 1907—A. O. Gimmestad, president; C. Knutson, vice president; C. C. Enestvedt, cashier; E. W. Thorson, assistant cashier. 1908—A. O. Gimmestad, president; C. Knutson, vice president; C. C. Ernestvedt, cashier; E. W. Thorson, assistant cashier. 1909—A. O. Gimmestad, president; C. Knutson, vice president; C. C. Enestvedt, cashier. 1910—A. O. Gimmestad, president; C. Knutson, vice president; C. C. Enestvedt, cashier. 1911—A. O. Gimmestad, president; C. Knutson, vice president; C. C. Enestvedt, cashier. 1912—A. O. Gimmestad, president; C. Knutson, vice president; Otto Flom, cashier. 1913—A. O. Gimmestad, president; C. Knutson, vice president; C. C. Enestvedt, cashier. 1914—A. O. Gimmestad, president; C. Knutson, vice president; C. C. Enestvedt, cashier; Oscar Gimmestad, as-

sistant cashier. 1915—A. O. Gimmetstad, president; C. Knutson, vice president; C. C. Enestvedt, cashier; Oscar Gimmetstad, assistant cashier. The policy of the bank is progressive-conservative. The present board of directors is composed of A. O. Gimmetstad, C. Knutson, Daniel McKay, C. Olson, Anton Weidemann, P. A. Hanson and H. F. Hagen. The financial statement for June 30, 1916, was as follows: Resources—loans and discounts, \$200,217.18; overdrafts, \$367.41; banking house and fixtures, \$3,350.00; cash and due from banks, \$18,061.02; other real estate, \$6,800.00; checks and cash items, \$173.79; paid out for expenses in excess of earnings, \$467.95; total, \$229,437.35. Liabilities—capital stock, \$15,000.00; surplus, \$11,000.00; total deposits, \$203,437.35; total, \$229,437.35.

**The Farmers' State Bank of Belview** came into existence September 27, 1910. Banking conditions, at that time, were such that a few enterprising citizens thought the time ripe for a second bank in Belview and accordingly G. F. Rahn, Dr. F. H. Aldrich, R. E. Gryting, Frank Martin, S. F. Peterson, L. T. Braafladt and E. D. Collins set out to organize a new bank. Money was so plentiful and faith in the new enterprise so sure that in two days the shares were all sold and on the date above mentioned the bank opened for business in the building now occupied by H. O. Hegdal's salesroom. The first set of officers was as follows: L. T. Braafladt, president; Dr. F. H. Aldrich, vice-president; G. F. Rahn, cashier. The new institution was prosperous from the opening day. In fact, it rapidly outgrew the building in which it was started, and a new concrete fire-proof and a strictly burglar-proof safe for its vaults was decided upon and carried to a successful culmination when on March 21, 1911, the new building was occupied. Steady and healthy growth has marked the progress of the institution ever since.

The second change in officers was made in 1911, when L. T. Braafladt resigned. Dr. F. H. Aldrich was then elected to the presidency, and he served in that capacity until March, 1914, when he was succeeded by S. F. Peterson, with R. E. Gryting, vice president; G. F. Rahn, cashier, and C. R. Rahn, assistant cashier. These officers are now serving. The capital stock at organization was \$10,000, with no surplus. No changes have been made in the capital stock, but a surplus of \$1,500 has been created. During the past year the building has been remodeled and the old front taken out and replaced with a white enameled brick front, at a cost of \$2,000.00; also a panel ceiling placed in the interior. The bank now has deposits of \$66,000, and has declared ten per cent dividends to its stockholders annually, with excellent prospects of larger returns in the future, notwithstanding that money can now be had on bankable notes, at eight per cent, a condition which did not obtain when the bank

was started, ten per cent being the rate then asked and received. Conservation is the watch word of the bank and this policy is more than carried out by its board of directors, seven in number, each of whom is as reliable as the Rock of Gibraltar. The bank's statement September 12, 1916, was as follows: Resources—loans and discounts, \$75,490.71; overdrafts, \$49.00; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$5,623.10; due from banks, \$5,969.57; cash on hand, \$2,810.04; checks and cash items, \$36.48; total, \$89,978.90. Liabilities—capital stock, \$15,000.00; surplus, \$3,000.00; undivided profits, net, \$60.70; deposits, \$71,918.20; total, \$89,978.90.

**The State Bank of Clements** was incorporated August 28, 1902, by M. Lehrer, A. C. Ochs, John B. Schmid, Wm. G. Frank, Jno. R. Schmid, H. C. Warnke, Jos. Eppler, and Julius A. Schmah. The bank opened for business September 1, 1902. The first officers and directors were: President, H. C. Warnke; vice president, A. C. Ochs; cashier, Jos. Eppler; board of directors, Jos. Eppler, H. C. Warnke, M. Lehrer, William G. Frank, and A. C. Ochs. The institution owns its building, which was erected during the summer of 1902. H. C. Warnke and A. C. Ochs have served as president and vice president ever since the organization; Jos. Eppler acted as cashier from time of organization to July 1, 1908, at which time he was succeeded by Gust. Backer, who served in the same capacity until March 1, 1914, being succeeded by S. R. Kramer. The bank's policy being to render every accommodation possible consistent with good banking. Its latest financial statement, September 12, 1916, reads as follows: Resources—loans and discounts, \$92,875.73; overdrafts, \$682.19; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$4,500.00; due from banks, \$7,430.24; cash on hand, \$2,471.33; checks and cash items, \$1,691.38; paid out for expenses, etc., in excess of earnings, \$79.86; revenue stamps, \$30.00; total, \$109,760.73. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus, \$18,000.00; deposits, \$91,760.73; total, \$109,760.73.

**The Delhi State Bank** was established and opened for business as a private institution, October 1, 1902, under the name of Delhi Bank. It was incorporated as Delhi State Bank in 1911, the incorporators being: J. A. Piersol, A. R. Piersol and A. O. Gimmestad. The officers were: J. A. Piersol, president; Peter McKay, vice president; A. R. Piersol, cashier; Mary L. Piersol, assistant cashier. J. A. Piersol, Peter McKay and A. R. Piersol were directors. The present officers are the same, except that there are now two assistant cashiers, Grace Piersol and O. A. Bramsche having succeeded to that office in place of Mary L. Piersol. The bank owns its own building, which was erected in 1910. "Honesty is the best policy," is the motto of this institution. Although too close to the county seat to have a large and rapid growth, it has progressed steadily and intrenched itself



in the confidence of the citizens of Delhi and the vicinity. Its statement at the close of business June 30, 1916, was as follows: Resources—loans and discounts, \$64,943.11; overdrafts, \$40.66; banking house furniture and fixtures, \$4,807.11; cash and due from banks, \$6,966.46; total, \$76,757.34. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus and undivided profits, \$11,761.92; deposits, \$64,995.42; total, \$76,757.34.

**Lucan State Bank.** This bank was organized as the Redwood County Bank, July 1, 1905, with F. W. Stevens, president; A. Schmidt, vice president, and P. M. Dickerson, cashier. It was conducted as a private bank until January 14, 1908, at which time it was reorganized as the Lucan State Bank. F. W. Stevens has always been president. P. M. Dickerson was cashier until January 1, 1909, when Nels Larsen succeeded him and held the position until the latter part of the year, when he was succeeded by Anton Kramer. The assistant cashier is Jos. J. Zeug. Nels Larson was elected vice president in 1910 and has held this position ever since. The bank's last statement (September 12, 1916) shows the following items: Resources—loans, \$110,249.01; overdrafts, \$313.48; banking house and furniture, \$4,500.00; cash and due from banks, \$28,503.08; total, \$143,565.57. Liabilities—capital stock, \$15,000.00; surplus and profits, \$7,067.27; deposits, \$121,498.30; total, \$143,565.57.

**State Bank of Lamberton** was incorporated September 6, 1898, with a capital of \$25,000.00, and immediately began business. The incorporators were: F. Schandera, L. Redding, R. Morton, A. C. Ochs, Peter Manderfeld, John Koenig, John Haas, John H. Roth, M. Lehrer, Emil Swanbeck, J. L. Soch and Ferd Crone. In October, 1899, the bank moved into its newly completed building, constructed by A. C. Ochs. The first officers of the institution were: F. Schandera, president; A. C. Ochs, vice president; L. Redding, cashier; directors, F. Schandera, R. Morton, John Koenig, Peter Manderfeld and A. C. Ochs. The bank has prospered and has taken for its trade motto, "Security and Service," looking after the needs of the local community first and conducting a conservative business at all times. In October, 1913, the capital stock was increased to \$30,000.00. In the bank's statement for September 12, 1916, the following resources and liabilities are shown: Resources—loans, \$504,173.48; overdrafts, \$1,163.32; furniture and fixtures, \$4,144.66; banking house, \$5,852.50; insurance account, \$869.73; cash and due from banks, \$34,966.56; total, \$551,170.25. Liabilities—capital stock, \$30,000.00; surplus, \$30,000.00; deposits, \$472,794.01; bills payable, \$14,300.00; undivided profits, \$4,076.24; total, \$551,170.25. The present officers of the bank are: F. Schandera, president; John Haas, vice president; L. Redding, cashier; Otto J. Schmid, assistant cashier; L. J. Wilt, second assistant cashier.



**The Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Morgan.** This bank occupies a fine ornamental building on the west side of Vernon avenue, and equipped with all modern equipment. Possessing a Twin city brick front with large, airy windows, the bank building makes a very fine appearance. It is finished on the interior with golden oak trimmings, and has customers' lobby, president's room, working room, big steel vault and directors' room. The vault is made of steel and is protected by a complete burglar alarm gong system, fully protecting the contents of the bank until time to open again. While not the oldest bank its deposits aggregated in July, 1916, \$275,000 in round figures. The officers are: J. C. Jackson, president; Emil P. Grabow, cashier; C. B. Root, vice president; Anna Jenson, assistant cashier.

**The State Bank of Morgan** was incorporated with a capital stock of \$10,000.00, June 10, 1893, the incorporators being: H. M. Ball, F. W. Fixsen, Frank Billington, Horace G. Eaton, Hans Mo, Otto W. Hagen and George W. Somerville. The first officers were: Hans Mo, president; George W. Somerville, vice president; H. M. Ball, cashier. The bank opened for business November 8, 1893. In 1904 the capital stock was increased to \$25,000.00. After owning its own building for twenty-two years, from the beginning, the bank organized a building association in 1915 and erected a new building for its own occupancy. There has been but little change in officers during the life of the business. H. M. Ball is now president; F. W. Fixsen, vice president; William H. Ball, cashier, and L. M. Gerstmann, assistant cashier. "Honesty, stability and service is the aim of this bank and its officers." The report of condition at the close of business, September 12, 1916, shows the following resources and liabilities: Resources—loans and discounts, \$330,928.31; overdrafts, \$1,260.05; furniture and fixtures, \$5,879.56; cash on hand and in banks, \$29,931.47; other real estate, \$3,600.00; total, \$371,599.39. Liabilities—capital stock, \$25,000.00; surplus, \$12,000.00; undivided profits, net, \$1,063.91; deposits, \$333,535.48; total, \$371,599.39. One of the first improvements to be spoken of in connection with the advancement of the village of Morgan is the three fine buildings built jointly by the State Bank of Morgan, Nels Jenson and Frank Gerstmann. Occupying a corner, 75 by 100 feet, at the intersection of Vernon avenue and Front street, the buildings are the first to greet the eye of the traveler as the train arrives from north or south. The first section, covering 25 by 75 feet, is the new building of the State Bank of Morgan. Two stories high of twin city brown brick, trimmed with Kasota cut stone, it makes a very commanding appearance, as one looks at it from any point of view. The interior is finished in English vein, Italian marble, trimmed with green and black Belgian marble. The bank proper has president's room, cashier's room, working department and

directors' room, with bubbling fountains within the building. On second floor the building is divided into seven commodious rooms occupied by Dr. Adams, M. D.; Dr. W. W. Carlile, dentist; W. R. Werring, attorney, and the central telephone headquarters, running water in all rooms and connected with up-to-date toilet rooms.

**The State Bank of Milroy** was incorporated in 1902, by William Bierman, William G. Frank, Thomas F. Kinman, John R. Schmid, Adolph Altermatt, Henry C. Warnke, A. C. Ochs and Julius A. Schmahl, and opened for business June 17, 1902, with William Bierman, president; Adolph Altermatt, vice president, and Thos. F. Kinman, cashier. The first board of directors consisted of William Bierman, Adolph Altermatt, William G. Frank, John R. Schmid and Thomas F. Kinman. The bank owns its own building which it has occupied since the fall of 1902. William Duncan, Jr., succeeded Thos. F. Kinman as cashier in February, 1902, and has acted as managing officer since that date. In January, 1909, the board of directors was reduced from five to three members, and at present consists of Adolph Altermatt, William Bierman and William G. Frank. In January, 1905, Adolph Altermatt was elected president and William G. Frank, vice president, and they have continued to act as such to this date. Otto J. Schmid was elected assistant cashier in January, 1904, and acted until March 1, 1910. He was succeeded by Benjamin R. Schmid, who still holds that position. The present official staff is as follows: Adolph Altermatt, president; William G. Frank, vice president; William Duncan, Jr., cashier; Benjamin R. Schmid, assistant cashier, and Hazell Streeter, stenographer. The bank has been conducted along conservative lines and confines its business to its own locality. It has been instrumental in the agricultural development of the vicinity of Milroy, with its unlimited outlet for farm mortgage loans. The following is the banks' statement for June 30, 1916: Resources—loans and discounts, \$153,968.92; overdrafts, \$928.99; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$7,664.81; cash and due from banks, \$46,828.29; revenue account, \$160.21; total, \$209,551.22. Liabilities—capital, \$18,000.00; surplus, \$10,000.00; undivided profits, \$2,556.80; deposits, \$178,994.42; total, \$209,551.22.

**The Security State Bank of North Redwood** was organized April 21, 1908, by F. A. Swoboda, M. C. Taubert, Charles Kuenzli, F. M. Shoemaker, Henry Timms, Louisa Weiss, Bernhard Kuenzli, H. W. Shoemaker, Frank Horejsi and George Evert. The institution started with a capital stock of \$10,000.00, but no surplus. The first officers were: H. A. Baldwin, president; Joseph Fischer, vice president; Frank Horejsi, cashier; W. B. Clement, assistant cashier. Directors: H. A. Baldwin, Charles Kuenzli, Joseph Fischer, Henry Timms, F. A. Swoboda, F. A. Shoemaker and

Frank Horejsi. January 1, 1910, J. M. Hardy became cashier and served until January 1, 1913. The present officers and directors are: H. A. Baldwin, president; H. W. Shoemaker, vice president; E. W. Currier, cashier; C. H. Baldwin, assistant cashier. Directors: H. A. Baldwin, H. W. Shoemaker, F. M. Shoemaker, Charles Kuenzli, G. Kuenzli and E. W. Currier. The bank now has an earned surplus of \$3,000.00, and occupies a well-appointed and thoroughly up-to-date building. Its first consideration has always been the protection of its customers, for which reason it carries considerably more of a reserve than is required by law. It is a home institution for the benefit of the local public and does not make loans of a questionable nature in order to obtain a higher rate of interest. Its report of condition, September 12, 1916, contained the following items: Resources—loans and discounts, \$107,110.88; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$1,500.00; other real estate, \$1,575.00; total cash assets, \$13,994.99; checks and cash items, \$323.33; total, \$124,504.20. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus, \$13,000.00; undivided profits, net, \$1,091.70; deposits, \$110,412.50; total, \$124,504.20.

**The State Bank of Revere.** This bank was established in 1902. The officers are: President, L. Redding; vice president, Charles Chester; cashier, J. E. Sawyer; assistant cashiers, C. E. Sawyer and N. R. Sawyer. The capital is \$10,000; the surplus and profits, \$6,000; the deposits, \$73,000.

**The Farmers State Bank of Sanborn** was incorporated in 1911, by A. H. Dorn, W. A. Gleason and F. E. Gleason and was opened for business August 21 the same year. The first officers were: F. E. Gleason, P. M. Dickerson and A. H. Dorn, while the directors were: F. E. Gleason, P. M. Dickerson, A. H. Dorn, C. Ripley, Fred Radtke, A. W. Nickel, Henry Essig, Herman Voge and J. R. Whelan. There has since been no change in officers. The staff consists of F. E. Gleason and A. H. Dorn, Mr. Dickerson not being active in the concern. The policy of the bank is to promote the business welfare of the community it serves and it stands, first of all for security and, next in importance, service. The following was the bank's statement of condition, September 12, 1916: Resources—loans, \$153,675.09; overdrafts, \$263.33; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$5,250.00; cash and due from banks, \$17,419.24; total, \$176,580.66. Liabilities—capital, \$20,000.00; surplus, \$3,000.00; undivided profits, \$2,640.49; deposits, \$150,940.17; total, \$176,580.66.

**The Sanborn State Bank** was established in 1901. The officers are: President, F. W. Stevens; vice president, E. J. Strom; vice president, John Hagemann; cashier, C. E. Melbye; assistant cashier, D. G. Klein. The capital is \$25,000; the surplus and profits, \$10,000; and the deposits, \$150,000.

**The Security State Bank of Seaforth** was incorporated September 8, 1904, by Alfred Soderlind and W. F. Mann, of Lake Benton, Minn. W. J. Soderlind was made cashier. In 1908 F. W. Stevens bought out Alfred Soderlind and others and has since been president of the institution. The same year F. E. Sylvester (now cashier of the new State Bank of Morton, Minn.) was cashier, and so continued until June 1, 1914, at which time the present cashier, Jos. Pistulka, was elected. The present officers are: F. W. Stevens, president; Geo. H. Johnson, vice-president; Jos. Pistulka, cashier; R. A. Johnson, assistant cashier. The directors include the above mentioned officers, together with H. J. Fink and J. C. Johnson. The bank's statement, September 12, 1916, was as follows: Resources—loans and discounts, \$69,300.10; overdrafts, \$28.10; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$3,500.00; due from banks, \$17,905.57; cash on hand, \$2,168.14; checks and cash items, \$303.85; total, \$93,205.76. Liabilities—capital stock, \$10,000.00; surplus, \$3,000.00; undivided profits, net, \$694.71; total deposits, \$79,511.05; total, \$95,205.76.

**The State Bank of Vesta** was organized February 1, 1900, by S. A. Hoyt and Harvey Harris. S. A. Hoyt was elected president and Harvey Harris, cashier. The bank was operated as a private bank and the management sold their interests in it September 1, 1900, to Gold-Stabeck & Co. W. H. Gold was elected president and A. A. Bennett, cashier. In 1902, A. A. Bennett was succeeded by L. H. Wallace as cashier. On January 1, 1904, S. F. Scott, formerly a law student of the University of Minnesota, at Minneapolis, but who had worked in the bank for four months previously, was elected cashier, and he bought the interests of L. H. Wallace in the bank and has been cashier since that date. September 1, 1904, the bank was incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota as State Bank of Vesta, with a capital stock of \$10,000.00. In 1906 the bank increased its capital stock to \$15,000.00 with a surplus of \$3,000.00, and as it had outgrown its quarters a commodious building was erected on the corner of Broadway and Front streets. The dimensions were 22x42 feet. It is built of pressed brick and Kasota stone with three large pillars of polished St. Cloud granite, supporting the corner over the entrance. The building is equipped with a fire and burglar-proof vault and a burglar-proof safe, and also has an electric burglar alarm system of the most improved type. The present officers are: W. H. Gold, president; J. P. Cooper, vice president; S. F. Scott, cashier, and Henry G. Kramer, assistant cashier. The directors are: W. H. Gold, J. P. Cooper, both of Redwood Falls, and R. A. Peterson, F. H. Bendix and S. F. Scott, all of Vesta. November 1, 1914, the capital stock was raised to \$20,000.00, and the surplus to \$5,000.00. At this time a number of the prominent business men and farmers were given an opportunity to buy stock

in the bank and they took almost the whole of the new stock issued at that time. The bank has always taken a hearty interest in the welfare of the town and adjacent country and has always been quick to help in any work to develop the business interests of the business men and farmers. The bank's statement for September 12, 1916, was as follows: Resources—loans and discounts, \$156,400.98; overdrafts, \$316.97; banking house and fixtures, \$6,500.00; cash and due from banks, \$28,948.28; total, \$192,166.23. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus, \$25,000.00; net profits, \$1,321.81; deposits, \$165,844.42; total, \$192,166.23.

**The First State Bank of Walnut Grove** was organized as a private institution by L. Garlock, and by him operated until 1901, when he reorganized it as a state institution under its present title. After the fire, in the early spring of 1903, Mr. Garlock, holding the controlling interest in the bank, superintended the erection of the present two-story building on the corner of Main and Sixth streets. The bank is in a prosperous condition, and has some \$165,000 in deposits. The capital, surplus and undivided profits amount to some \$30,000. The officials of the bank are: President, W. E. Elliott; vice president, Charles Herder; cashier, A. H. Kemper; assistant cashier, William Greenholz.

**The Walnut Grove State Bank.** In 1898 R. R. Freeman opened up a private bank under the name of Farmers and Merchants Bank, Walnut Grove, which he continued to operate until September 30, 1901, when it was merged into the Walnut Grove State Bank, which was organized and incorporated with a paid-up capital of \$15,000.00. The first board of directors consisted of R. R. Freeman, W. J. Swoffer, A. Swoffer, F. F. Goff, W. J. McDonald, D. O. Bulen and R. H. Thompson. A. Swoffer was chosen as president and has continued to hold that office up to the present time. F. F. Goff, as vice president, served until October, 1911, when he resigned to move to California and was succeeded by W. B. Harwood, who is first vice president at the present time. R. R. Freeman was appointed cashier and continued to serve until April, 1906, when he sold out his interests and was succeeded by William B. Harwood, who resigned in January, 1910. W. J. McDonald was then appointed cashier, and is still serving. F. J. Clark was assistant cashier from September, 1901, until January, 1906; E. W. Swoffer, January, 1906, to February, 1907; O. B. Dahlgren, March 1, 1907, to February, 1912; J. E. L. Lund, March 1, 1912, to March 1, 1914; J. S. Pederson, March 1, 1914, to November, 1914, and R. W. Blake from November 1, 1914, to the present time. The present board of directors consists of A. Swoffer, W. B. Harwood, J. F. Hesnault, Chas. Luard, E. W. Swoffer, Helge Johnson and W. J. McDonald. In January, 1914, the capital stock was increased from \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00. January 15, 1914, the bank moved into the beautiful new building

which they had erected on the south side of Main street and are now enjoying one of the most commodious banking rooms in the southwestern part of the state. The officers are: A. Swoffer, president; W. B. Harwood, first vice president; J. F. Hesnault, second vice president; W. J. McDonald, cashier; R. W. Blake, assistant cashier. The bank's statement of condition, June 23, 1915, was as follows: Resources—loans and discounts, \$236,-264.30; overdrafts, \$426.65; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$8,986.00; cash and due from banks, \$28,030.42; total, \$273,707.37. Liabilities—capital stock and surplus, \$28,000.00; undivided profits, \$1,908.65; deposits, \$243,798.72; total, \$273,-707.37.

**The State Bank of Wanda** was incorporated July 7, 1902, with a capital of \$10,000.00 and began business the same day, the building having been erected in the spring of that year. Paul Doepke was the first depositor. The first board of directors consisted of M. Jenniges, John Gorres, Eugene Fernholz, P. O. Callaghan, Albert Spaulding, Mathias Eichten and S. A. Bellig, who held office until the first annual meeting. On January 13, 1913, M. Jenniges, Paul Doepke, Mathias Eichten, John Gorres, Albert Spaulding, S. A. Bellig and P. O. Callaghan were elected directors; M. Jenniges was chosen president, Paul Doepke vice-president and Paul A. Callaghan hired as cashier. Paul A. Callaghan left the employment of the bank in 1905, when Paul Doepke was chosen as cashier, which position he holds at the present time. The present directors are: C. Turbes, Mathias Eichten, Paul Doepke, S. A. Bellig, P. O. Callaghan, S. A. Bellig, Christ Luther and Nick Jenniges. The bank protects its shareholders and depositors by sound banking business and gives the community all of the accommodation needed in the development of the village and country, with a reputation second to none. The bank has added \$1,000 each year to the surplus fund ever since Paul Doepke became cashier, which is a sure guarantee to the patrons of the bank of the honesty of its directors. In addition it paid a dividend of 10 to 13 per cent every year, and more recently has paid 18 per cent to its shareholders. The bank's first statement showed the following items: Loans and discounts, \$1,964.48; banking house, \$1,500.00; undivided profits, \$28.46; due from banks, \$10,445.40; capital stock, \$10,000.00; deposits, \$3,863.34; time certificates, \$75.00. The following was the statement at the close of business December 31, 1915. Resources—loans and discounts, \$122,453.98; overdrafts, \$865.27; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$2,700.00; due from banks, \$5,-230.14; cash on hand, \$3,713.00; total, \$136,402.43. Liabilities—capital stock, \$10,000.00; surplus, \$8,000.00; undivided profits, net, \$3,844.94; notes rediscounted and bills payable, \$9,610.00; deposits subject to check, \$23,379.73; certified checks, \$1,300.00;



cashier's checks, \$2,072.90; time certificates, \$78,194.86; total, \$136,402.43. Amount of reserve on hand, \$10,383.18; amount of reserve required by law, \$9,260.14.

**Citizens State Bank of Wabasso** was organized March 19, 1903, and opened for business July 7 of the same year. Its building, which it owns, was erected during that summer. The first board of directors was composed of N. J. Franta, A. J. Weldon, A. W. Mueller, Leo Altermatt, George Braun, George Goblirsch and A. C. Ochs. A. J. Weldon was elected president and F. W. Hauerstein, cashier. The latter remained cashier of the bank until November 16, 1903, when A. W. Mueller was elected to that office and held it until November 15, 1905. At that time the bank was consolidated with the State Bank of Wabasso and the officers of the latter became the officers of the Citizens State Bank of Wabasso, namely: W. H. Gold, president and Paul A. Callaghan, cashier. N. J. Franta was made vice-president. The older bank, or State Bank of Wabasso, was organized as a state bank June 10, 1901, the officers at that time being: W. H. Gold, president; T. Stabeck, vice-president; O. T. Newhouse, cashier, and F. O. Orth, assistant cashier. The State Bank was an outgrowth of the Bank of Wabasso, which was a private institution. After the consolidation above referred to, W. H. Gold remained president of the Citizens State Bank of Wabasso until May 26, 1906, at which time his stock and that of his associates was purchased by William G. Frank, of Springfield, Minn., who became president of the institution on that date and has held the office up to the present date, September 19, 1916. Paul A. Callaghan is still cashier. In addition to the above-mentioned officers, N. J. Franta is vice-president, Emil Howe, assistant cashier, Elsie Howe, stenographer, and Henry Kramer, bookkeeper. The bank has always taken a stand for good service to its customers who in turn are loyal to it and believe in its policy. The bank was incorporated July 7, 1913. It has grown rapidly in deposits and volume of business. Its capital was increased from \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00 at the time of its consolidation with the State Bank. The following items are copied from its statement issued at the close of business September 12, 1916: Resources—loans and discounts, \$265,571.93; overdrafts, \$878.35; banking house, furniture and fixtures, \$7,468.00; other real estate, \$1,174.20; cash and due from banks, \$32,799.85; total, \$307,892.33. Liabilities—capital stock, \$25,000.00; surplus, \$5,000.00; undivided profits, net, \$563.49; bills payable, \$15,000.00; deposits, \$262,328.85; total, \$307,892.33.



## CHAPTER XL.

**POSTAL SERVICE.**

Postal service in Redwood county, aside from that inaugurated to the Lower Agency before the Massacre, dates from July 12, 1864, when Saml. R. Thompson was appointed postmaster at Redwood Falls. Mail was brought from Ft. Ridgely by the soldiers on horseback. Later a stage service was established to New Ulm.

In the early days, postoffices sprang up along the lines of the principal highways. In 1868 a postoffice was established at the Lower Agency, in Sherman township, on the Redwood Falls-New Ulm stage line. In 1869 a postoffice was established in section 26, Swedes Forest township, on the line of the Redwood Falls-Yellow Medicine stage line. About this time another office, Ceresco, was established in section 20, Underwood township, on the line of the road which extended along the southern bank of the Redwood river from Redwood Falls into Lyon county.

Redwood Falls, Lower Agency, Swedes Forest and Ceresco were thus the four stage-route postoffices of the county in the pioneer period. Three were along the line of the old Minnesota river (Ft. Rigely, Lower Agency, Upper Agency route) Military trail, and one was on the line of the Redwood river road which the government surveyed and the county later established.

In 1872 the Winona & St. Peter railroad was built through the southern part of the county. Charlestown and Summit postoffice were established, Charlestown in section 20, Charlestown; and Summit in section 30, Springdale. They were discontinued soon after the establishment of Lamberton and Tracy. Lamberton and Walnut Station (Walnut Grove) postoffice were established in 1873.

In the meantime, the northern part of the county was still without railroads. Settlers began to spread southward from Redwood Falls, and in 1875 a postoffice was established in Three Lakes township. A farmer living nearby was sworn into service, and was supposed to make weekly trips between the postoffice in Three Lakes township, and the postoffice at Redwood Falls. The service was irregular, and the office consisted of a box on a kitchen table, in the cabin of a pioneer. At Riverside, on the banks of the Minnesota, not far from what is now North Redwood, was established in 1876 the Riverside postoffice, later called Honner. It was on the stage route between Redwood Falls and Beaver Falls.

The Minnesota Valley branch of the Winona & St. Peter railroad was built from New Ulm to Redwood Falls in 1878, and

railroad mail service was thus established at Redwood Falls, though the stages continued to operate for many years thereafter. When the railroad was built, a postoffice was established at Morgan, at the present site of Morgan village, and at Paxton, in Paxton township, not far from the present station of Gilfillan.

In the next few years, several offices were established, away from the lines of the two railroads. In the extreme western part of the county, in 1878, West Line postoffice was established in section 26, West Line township. It was a few miles south of the old pioneer postoffice of Ceresco. Box Elder postoffice was established in 1879. New Avon postoffice was established about the same time at the home of J. S. Towle, in New Avon township.

Sanborn postoffice was established on the railroad in the southern part of the state in 1880, the village of that name being started at about the same time.

In 1880, Vesta postoffice was established at the home of James Arnold, in section 22, Vesta township, not far from the present village of Vesta.

The Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad was built through the northern part of the county in 1884. A postoffice was established at North Redwood, and at Delhi. On the same line of railroad the postoffice of Belview was opened in 1888.

About this time, or possibly a year earlier, in 1887, a postoffice called Rock was established in Granite Rock township, not far from the present village of Lucan.

In 1893, the postoffice of Revere was established on the line of the old Winona & St. Peter, now the Chicago & Northwestern.

About 1900, the Three Lakes postoffice, long before discontinued, were reestablished about a mile from the present village of Clements.

In 1899 the railroad had been built from Sanborn to Vesta, and in that winter or the next spring, the postoffices of Wabasso, Seaforth and Wanda were established, while the Vesta postoffice was moved from section 22, Vesta township, to the new village of that name.

In 1902 the railroad was built east and west through the central part of the county, and the offices of Milroy, Lucan and Clements established, the office of Three Lakes being moved to Clements and the office of Rock to Lucan.

Provided with five railroad lines, as the county now is, the present postal service is excellent. Thirty rural routes originate in offices of this county, and some of the people of the county are served by routes from Springfield in Brown county, and Morton in Renville county. With a few exceptions every farm house in the county is within a mile of a rural route, so that every inhabitant of the county is within easy daily mail connection with the outside world. Redwood Falls is a second class office and has

four rural routes. Lamberton, with four rural routes, Morgan with three rural routes, Sanborn with three rural routes, and Walnut Grove with four rural routes, are third class offices. Belview and Wabasso, with two routes each, are fourth class. Clements, Delhi, Lucan, Milroy, North Redwood, Revere, Seaforth and Vesta are fourth class offices with one route each. Wanda is a fourth class office and is the only office in the county without a rural route.

**Redwood Falls.** A movement for postal service in Redwood Falls was inaugurated July 12, 1864, when a petition was presented to the Postmaster General asking for the establishment of a postoffice. The petition was granted and in the fall of that year Saml. R. Thompson was appointed postmaster. Previous to this the soldiers had brought mail to the settlers from Fort Ridgely, and after the establishment of the office, the soldiers for some time continued to be the mail carriers. Mr. Thompson kept the office at his home in the west end of the McPhail cabin, which was within the stockade. The next postmaster was L. M. Baker. He kept the office at his home on lot 11, block 8, which is nearly opposite the present jail location. He had no postoffice fixtures but distributed the mail in his front room, making delivery through the window when weather permitted.

About this time William Mills was appointed mail carrier. He brought the mail from New Ulm with a pair of Indian ponies, supposedly once a week, although there were many irregularities. Later, the Minnesota Stage Company established a tri-weekly service to New Ulm, with postoffices at Lone Tree Lake and Golden Gate. Still later, Thomas McMillan established another route to New Ulm, by way of Beaver Falls and Fort Ridgely, also giving a tri-weekly service. The railroad was built from Sleepy Eye to Redwood Falls in 1878, thus giving the village daily mail service. However, after that date, the mail stages continued to run to New Ulm and Sleepy Eye for several months and mail and stage routes were also operated to Beaver Falls, Yellow Medicine and Minnesota Falls for a number of years.

Mr. Baker was followed by L. O. Root. Mr. Root was succeeded by W. C. March. Robert Watson was appointed in 1872 and served ten years. In 1882 Stephen W. Hayes was appointed and served four years until 1886 when James L. Thompson received the appointment under the first Cleveland administration. In 1890 the Republicans, having returned to power, William S. McKay was appointed postmaster. He served four years, or until 1894, when Dallas E. Laird received the appointment from the second Cleveland administration. He held the office until 1898 when George B. Hughes was appointed. In 1902 he was succeeded by A. E. King who served twelve years. In 1914

C. A. Lauterbach received the appointment from Woodrow Wilson.

As already stated, Saml. R. Thompson kept the postoffice at his home in the stockade and Mr. Baker kept the office at his residence on lot 11, block 8. L. O. Root, the next postmaster, kept the office in a small building on the south side of Second street about lots 2 and 3, block 15. W. C. March kept the office in connection with his wife's millinery store in a building on the southwest corner of Washington and Second streets, being the northeast corner of block 15. Later he put up a building on the west side of Mill street, between Second and Third, the lower floor being used for the postoffice and the upper floor for the Masonic hall. During the Watson administration the office was in his book and notion store on the north side of Second street, near the site later occupied by the Dickenson Bank building. About this time the office was made third class and from the beginning of Mr. Hayes administration was maintained independent of any private business. During Mr. Hayes' term the office was at the northwest corner of block 15 in the same building occupied by Mr. March when the office was in his wife's millinery store. J. L. Thompson moved the office to a building on the south side of Second street, a few doors east of Washington street. Mr. McKay removed the office to an entirely new location in a small building on the west side of Washington street, formerly occupied by the United States land office. Upon the advent of Mr. Laird the office was again moved to the north side of Second street to a building near the place where it had formerly been for a long term in the store of Mr. Watson. In 1899 the fine brick building at the northeast corner of Washington and Third streets was erected by a syndicate of citizens for the express purpose of securing for that locality the location of the postoffice. In the fall of 1899, by direction of the Postal Department at Washington, the office was removed to the corner room of this building, where it has remained until the present time and now occupies the entire first floor of the building and a store room in the basement. To show the extension of the work and the growth of the business it may be mentioned that when, in 1902, A. E. King became postmaster, he, with one clerk and the occasional employment of temporary help, attended to the entire business of the office, including janitor work. There are now employed in the office, including the rural carriers, ten people, and several more will be added soon by the introduction of city delivery. Much of the increased work is owing to the introduction of rural free delivery, together with parcel post and the large increase in money order business.

Rural delivery was first inaugurated in February, 1903, with two routes. In 1904 two more were added. E. R. Hills, who was

the first carrier on Route No. 1, is still serving that route, having now nearly completed his fourteenth year of service on the same route. William Fish has a record for long carrier service, having served Route No. 2 from 1904 to July, 1916.

Parcel post was introduced January 1, 1911, and has rapidly increased until at the present time it is one of the most extensive and a very important branch of the service.

The postal savings system was added in October, 1911. In common with other western rural offices, this branch did not prove popular and the business which was extremely small at first has not increased.

In 1912 the office fixtures, which up to this time were owned by the postmaster, were discarded and new fixtures, furnished under government specification, were installed by the owners of the building and rented by the government.

July 1, 1913, the office was advanced from third to second class, this placing all the force except the postmaster under civil service rules. The volume of business now done entitles the office to city delivery and that will be inaugurated within the next few months, or as soon as the city government complies with the requirements as to marking the streets and numbering the buildings.

The present roster of the office is as follows: C. A. Lauterbach, postmaster, was appointed by President Wilson in June, 1914; W. C. Hyde, assistant postmaster, was transferred from the Carrier's Division of the Chicago office, July, 1913; Mrs. Frances Davis, head clerk, has been in the service since 1910; A. B. Winters, routing clerk, entered the service March, 1914; A. F. Carr, auxiliary clerk, has filled that position for two years.

**Belview.** The Belview postoffice was established in the north room of the store now occupied by O. H. Mogen, the date of establishment being February 6, 1888. Charles H. Jones, the oldest resident citizen of Belview, was the lucky man to receive the appointment as first postmaster of the thriving little village. Mr. Jones held the important position until February, 1891, when Ole Hanson succeeded him, removing the office to the present Louis Leonard hardware building, where it remained until 1896. During this time G. F. Rahn was appointed to conduct Uncle Sam's affairs in the postoffice. In 1896 the office was removed to the site now occupied by A. T. Abraham's drug store and barber shop. Mr. Rahn served from July 2, 1893, to September 30, 1897. During the Ole Hanson incumbency the office was made a money order office. The first money order was written on November 7, 1892. Mr. Rahn proved himself a loyal Democrat and basked in the sunshine of the administration's good graces for over four years, being succeeded by August F. Pottratz on September 30, 1897. Mr. Pottratz served the people well until

October, 1905, when the veteran newspaper man, F. G. Tuttle, editor at that time of the Belview "Independent," was given the office, which was removed to the building last occupied by the Hubbard Davis Clothing Company. After a year or so a removal was again effected, the new site being the present "Independent" office. Mr. Tuttle resigned and was succeeded by his wife, Dora Tuttle, on April 1, 1911. The office was conducted by Mrs. Tuttle until July 1, 1913, when she was succeeded by Otto Flom, who tired of newspaper and postoffice life in a few months, resigning the office and being succeeded by the present postmaster, Dr. Frederick H. Aldrich, on March 8, 1914. Dr. Aldrich selected a new site and for the first time in the history of the Belview office it was housed in a building by itself, no other business being run in connection. The site chosen was in the Louis Leonard building, the most centrally located building in the village. The office has been a registered letter office from the start. It is not a postal savings depository, but under new instructions from the department, all fourth-class offices may receive deposits to be forwarded to postal savings stations selected by the depositors. The first rural route was established in 1903, Hendrick Odegaard being the first carrier to test the muddy roads of twelve years ago. There are now two rural routes, serving over 150 boxes. The carriers at present are Rudolph Hoppenrath and Glenroy E. Marceyes. Each receives a salary of \$1,200 a year. They serve their routes a majority of the number of days of the year with automobiles. G. F. Rahn is assistant postmaster. The Misses Ada Scholz and Mina Hjeldness are the efficient clerks. It is not saying too much in claiming that at present the patrons of the Belview post office receive the best service ever given them in the history of the local office.

**Sanborn** postoffice was established in May, 1880, with Thomas Poole as postmaster. The office was kept at the house of J. W. Doston, who was appointed postmaster in the fall of 1880. Following him the postmasters have been: J. A. Letford, John H. Posz, W. A. Hackley, Ernest Rebstock, G. E. Bartholomew, Enos P. Dotson, Angus D. McRae, Enos P. Dotson, Adolph Schellenberg and H. E. Kent. All the records of the office were destroyed by fire in 1912. There are three rural routes, extending into Charlestown, Willow Lake, Germantown and Stately townships.

**Revere** postoffice, an office of the fourth class, was established and started service March 1, 1893, with Lewis J. Rongstad as postmaster. The changes of postmasters have been as follows: Lewis J. Rongstad, from March 1, 1893, to March 30, 1894; Andrew K. Moen, March 30, 1894, to January 15, 1895; Herman Dahl, January 15, 1895, to September 30, 1906; Florence J. Nelson, September 30, 1906, to December 22, 1908; Jans K. Nicolayson, December 22, 1908, to the present date. The last mentioned



was reappointed by passing the civil service examination, October 22, 1914, and is now under the classified service. Revere became a money order office April 15, 1899, and there have to this date been issued 13,489 orders. The steady increase in this division can best be seen in the figures for the past eight years, as by June 24, 1908, 6,044 orders had been issued, and since that date 7,445 more. Rural free delivery was started July 1, 1906. Route No. 1 has a length of twenty-six miles, serving patrons in North Hero township, Redwood county, and Ann township, Cottonwood county. This route gives service at this time to sixty-eight families. Nearly all of these families take a daily newspaper, as well as a number of farm papers, of which "The Farmer" has the largest circulation. Next to this comes the "Farm Journal." The "Breeder's Gazette" has only three subscribers. Otherwise there is a large circulation of weekly journals, while a few are taking "The Ladies' Home Journal," "The Youth's Companion," "The American," etc. A number of foreign newspapers are also taken and papers of a religious character.

**Seaforth** postoffice was established in 1900 with J. L. Pratt as postmaster. Since him the postmasters have been, Fred S. Moulster, Glen R. Tuttle, A. W. Milbrandt, Mrs. Minnie Milbrandt, Ernie Milbradt and Mrs. Minnie Sharratt. The rural route was established in 1904 and extends into Sheridan, Vail, Vesta and Granite Rock townships.

**Clements** postoffice was established as Three Lakes postoffice about a mile from the present village. L. J. Rongstad, the postmaster, moved the postoffice to the new village of Clements, in June, 1900. He was followed by William Kuehn, who served from April 1, 1912, to January 1, 1915. Then came the present postmaster, Gustave Backer.

**Delhi.** There was a postoffice in Delhi as early as 1884, it being located in the Atkinson & Herbert general store, with R. R. Herbert as postmaster. Mr. Herbert held office one year and then resigned in favor of Ed. Atkinson, who held the office until 1888. D. R. McCorquodale, appointed May 18, 1888, changed the location to the Borg building in the extreme north end of town, and held the office two years, resigning in favor of Ed. Atkinson, who was subsequently the postmaster until 1903, when he resigned. His successor was J. A. Lagerstrom, who held office until his resignation, which was offered in October, 1913, and accepted in the following February, when, through the civil service commission, Mrs. Ethlyn D. Leonard, the present postmistress, was appointed. Then again the location was changed to the north end of town. The office was made a registration office in 1886. The date when money orders were first issued is uncertain. The first one now on file in the office is dated June, 1904, but it is thought that an older record may have existed,



which was lost or destroyed when the office was last moved, as there is a record of money orders paid, dated October, 1892, and it is probable that they were issued as early as they were paid. The Delhi office is not a postal savings station. The rural route was established Friday, July 15, 1904, with Robert W. Stevenson, carrier, at a salary of \$750 per annum, including horse hire. The route served fifty-four families from forty-two boxes. In 1906 Maggie A. Parker took the examination and was appointed carrier, following the resignation of Stevenson. Mrs. Parker still serves the route, which has twice been amended and now covers twenty-nine miles and serves sixty-nine families. Before this office was established the majority of settlers got their mail from Redwood Falls, but a few, mostly the Scandinavian settlers, received their mail from a small offices in Swedes Forest township, located on the farm now tenanted by Nels Jacobson. The mail was brought to this office by stage from Redwood Falls. The office was discontinued after the Delhi office was established.

**Lamberton** postoffice was established in the fall of 1873 and was located in C. R. Kneeland's store. John S. Letford was followed as postmaster by L. S. Crandall. Following him came C. Querle, Richard Morton, John Larsen, Hogen E. Anderson, George B. Tretbar, Alfred J. Gebhard and John Haas.

**Walnut Grove** postoffice was established as Walnut Station postoffice in 1873 with Lafayette Bedal as postmaster. In 1879 J. H. Anderson was appointed. Following him have been Andrew S. Carlson, Asa Way, Robert Hall, A. J. Swaffer, John G. Cheshire, Fred F. Goff, John A. Larson, Daniel A. Malloy, and Chauncey W. Bulen. Mr. Larson was postmaster from 1904 to 1907; Mr. Malloy from 1907 to 1915; Mr. Bulen appointed January 8, 1915, having since held the office. The assistant postmaster is Jessie Bulen, with Minnie H. Nelson as clerk. Walnut Grove was made a third-class postoffice October 1, 1910. The first route was established in 1901; at present there are four routes. The present carriers are Ulric Dilger, Route 1; Gust H. Ochultz, Route 2; J. M. Corcoran, Route 3; and O. V. Anderson, Route 4.

**Lucan** postoffice was established as Rock postoffice some distance from the present village of Lucan. The records have been lost, but it is believed that Rupert Schamberger, the first postmaster, opened the office about 1887 in his store on the southwest quarter of section 14, a mile and three quarters east of the village. He was followed by C. A. Taft. In 1899 A. D. Norcutt, the next postmaster, moved the store and office to the old Jefferson farm, on the southeast corner of section 20, with the expectation that the future village would be located on that spot. The next postmaster was C. A. Nelson, who bought the store, and

served as postmaster from November 23, 1901, to February 3, 1903. While he was postmaster, the office was moved to the new village of Lucan, and located in the store on Main street, now occupied by John Zeng's general store. The postoffice was opened there November 1, 1902, and remained till February 13, 1903, when it was moved to its present location. Jens Larson, having been appointed postmaster, erected the first building in the new town, a two-story frame, 20 by 50 feet. Mr. Larson still presides, ably assisted by his wife. They also have a small stock of general merchandise. The office has always been a registered letter office and was made a money order office April 1, 1904. In 1909 it was made a postal savings station, but this branch was discontinued in the following year. There is one rural route, established in 1907, which has been served from the beginning by Henry C. Dittbenner. The West Line postoffice was discontinued in 1902, the mail formerly distributed from that point having been since distributed from Lucan. The Lucan office was continued under the name of "Rock" postoffice until April 1, 1908, as there was another office in the state of similar name to Lucan, but that office being discontinued, the name of Rock postoffice was changed to Lucan on the above-mentioned date.

**Milroy** postoffice was established June 26, 1902 and located in the store of the Milroy Hardware Company, Looney and Rashkopf, proprietors, which building is now being used by Joseph W. Dysart, implement dealer. Jerry A. Looney was the first postmaster. Previous to the date above mentioned the mail for this section had been delivered by rural free delivery from Marshall. E. M. Wilson succeeded Mr. Looney as postmaster in 1905 and held the office until 1910, when he was succeeded by Maxwell W. Johnson, who still conducts the office ably assisted by Miss Lucile Leach. After several removals, the office was established in its present location during Mr. Wilson's incumbency. It has been a registered letter and money order office since it was established. July 1, 1913, it was made a postal savings station, but the savings department was discontinued, owing to lack of business, July 1, 1914. Rural free delivery was established May 15, 1906, with Thomas O. Loovald as carrier. He was succeeded September 1, 1914, by Alfred F. Brakke, who still continues in the service. From Westline township the route extends into Clinton in Lyon county.

**Morgan.** When the railroad was being constructed, Tom Holland, being section boss, acted as temporary postmaster at Morgan and continued to do so for several years. The first postoffice was established on First street, George Knudson, the first regular postmaster, serving until 1882, the office being made a registered letter and money order office in 1878. Lewis Gerstman, proprietor of a hardware and general merchandise store

located on First street, followed Mr. Knudson as postmaster, serving from 1882 to 1886, and having the office located in his store. Nick Eischen was appointed postmaster from 1886 to 1890, the office then being located on Front street, in connection with a general mercantile store. Mr. Eischen's successor was Richard Gertes, who served from 1890 to 1894, when the office was moved from Front street up on Main street. The next postmaster following Mr. Gertes was Joe Hartwick, 1894 to 1898, the office being moved from Main street down on First street, in the building know as the old Fred Fixsen building. William Kinman, the next postmaster, served from 1898 to 1904, and moved the office from First street up on Main street. F. S. Pollard succeeded Mr. Kinman and served until 1915, the office being located on Main street. In 1915 H. F. Hopfenspirger was appointed postmaster and is still serving. The postoffice, located on Main street, is now equipped with all the latest fixtures. Miss Rose A. Fixsen, assistant postmaster, has served from 1906 up to the present time. The first rural route was established in 1902 with George Goodell as carrier and he is still carrier on Route No. 1, Route No. 2 was established one year later, in 1903, with Andrew Thompson as carrier for one year. Then Fred Cass was appointed in 1905 and served till 1906, when H. F. Hopfenspirger was appointed carrier, serving till 1911, and being succeeded by William Koehue, who has served as carrier up to the present time. Route No. 3 was established in 1904, with Julius Conrad as carrier, he serving till 1906. His successors have been A. A. Carlile, 1906-1912; Rub Gluth, 1912-1913; Paul Zeug, 1913-1914, and Walter Beltz, 1914 to present year (1916). Morgan postoffice became a postal savings depository November 10, 1911, and is one of the largest in the county. The Lone Tree postoffice was discontinued into this office in 1906, John Gluth being postmaster at that time. Previously, the above mentioned office had been served from Morgan postoffice, on Route No. 2. In 1911 this office went into the third class. It is now serving about 1,600 patrons, with receipts increasing each year. When the rural routes were started each carrier handled about 3,000 pieces and served forty boxes. Now they handle 6,000 pieces, each route being twenty-eight miles and serve eighty-five boxes.

**North Redwood** postoffice was established August 1, 1886, in the railroad depot, J. S. G. Honner, the first postmaster, serving until January 1, 1887, since which time the postmasters have been as follows: E. N. Swan, to June, 1891; H. W. Shoemaker, to May 1, 1894; E. H. Gasper, to April 1, 1896; M. W. Knox to April 1, 1898; A. A. Lindeman, to December 31, 1899; F. F. Hammer, to November 8, 1902; H. W. Shoemaker, since 1902. The office has been located in stores since Mr. Hanner's time and is now in Mr. Shoemaker's store on Front street. It was made a

registered letter office August 1, 1886 and a money order office in October, 1898. Mrs. H. W. Shoemaker is assistant postmaster and Dewey Lindeman, clerk. There is one free rural delivery route, which was established May 1, 1904, and which has been served by the following carriers: John F. Swoboda, to January, 1905; George F. Dittbenner, to July 1, 1906; Robert T. Benson, to November, 1910; August E. Lindeman, to September 1, 1915; Frank H. Schumacher, to May 1, 1916, when he was succeeded by Ralph E. Hutchinson, the present carrier. The offices of Bechyn and Florita, Renville county, Minnesota, have been discontinued into that of North Redwood.

**Vesta** postoffice was established long before the village was projected. The old office was located in section 22, Vesta township. T. L. Cronley was the first postmaster and James Arnold the second. When the village was established, Mr. Arnold moved the office to the village, and appointed F. H. Bendix as his deputy, the office being kept in the store of Matz & Schroeder. Some months later, H. R. Draper was appointed first postmaster of the village, and moved the office to a small building on lot 4, block 7. In 1904, Morgan E. Lewis became the postmaster. Harvey Harris, the present postmaster, was appointed March 14, 1906. The office became a money order office in 1903, and was a postal savings station from July 1, 1913, to July 1, 1914. F. H. Bendix is the assistant postmaster, and Sadie Wilkerson is the clerk. The rural route was established in 1904. The carriers have been F. L. Frost, B. C. Lewis and A. D. Wyman.

**Wabasso.** The postoffice was established May 1, 1900, with J. H. Rahskopf as postmaster. In April, 1904, he was followed by Dayton Billington, who served until December 1, 1914, when Joseph Groebner was appointed. Theresia Groebner is the assistant. There are two routes, served by Louis Fixen and Howard W. Pickett, the first route being established in 1906. The office was made a money order office in 1901.

**Wanda** postoffice was established in 1900, with Valentine P. Eichten as postmaster. He served some six years and was followed by M. J. Eichten, the present postmaster.

### EARLY OFFICES.

**Charlestown** postoffice was established in section 20, Lamber-ton, in 1872. It was located in the store of Praxel & Schandera, at Cottonwood crossing, just south of the railroad track. The first postmaster was A. A. Praxel. He resigned when the store was moved, and G. L. Wagner appointed postmaster. He held the office about two years and it was then discontinued.

**Summit** postoffice was established on the west line of Springdale township about 1872 and discontinued when Tracy was established a year or two later.

**Ceresco** postoffice was established in the late sixties or early seventies in section 20, Underwood township.

**Swedes Forest** postoffice was established about 1869. Peter Swenson was appointed postmaster and he kept the office at his house in section 26 until 1877 when he resigned and turned the office over to the postmaster at Redwood Falls. No successor was appointed.

**The Lower Agency** postoffice was established about 1868 in Sherman township.

**Paxton** postoffice was established in 1878, with S. F. Cale, postmaster.

**Weldon** postoffice was established in 1873, with Thomas Barr, postmaster. The office was discontinued after a few years. The office was located not far from the present site of Seaforth.

**Three Lakes** postoffice was established in 1875 and discontinued in two years. Another Three Lakes postoffice was established about 1900 and moved to Clements in 1902.

**West Line** postoffice was established in the fall of 1878 with N. B. Weymouth appointed postmaster and the office located at his house in section 26. It was discontinued in the summer of 1880. It appeared again before 1889 and was discontinued into Lucan about 1902.

**Box Elder** postoffice was established in 1879 and Eben Martin appointed postmaster. The office was located in section 39, Underwood township.

**New Avon** postoffice was established before 1880, with J. S. Towle, postmaster, the office being kept at his house. It was discontinued in the middle eighties. About 1900 the office was revived with William Lindeman as postmaster. Later it was discontinued into Wabasso.

**Authority.** The material for this chapter has for the most part been furnished by the postmasters. The *Northwestern-Gazetteer*, 1876-1916, has been consulted. Material regarding the postoffices established before 1882 has been secured from the *History of the Minnesota Valley*, published in 1882. A. E. King, for many years postmaster at Redwood Falls, has written the article concerning the postal service in that city, and has also furnished notes regarding many of the discontinued offices.

## CHAPTER XLI.

**THE PIONEER PERIOD.**

For nearly two years after the Massacre, Redwood county remained without settlers. It was, however, by no means deserted. Camp Pope, in the river bottoms near what is now North Redwood, was the center from which Sibley set out on his Indian expedition. A garrison was still maintained at Ft. Ridgely. Both of these posts were in the patrol line established for the protection of the frontier, and the soldiers were constantly passing to and fro.

With the lessening of the Indian danger, Redwood county presented an ideal spot for the location of settlers. Considerable land had been broken for the Indians by the government farmers, and was ready for the growing of crops. Here and there were scattered neat cabins of hewed logs and also a number of brick houses, which had been erected by the government for the Indians.

Col. Sam McPhail, Civil war veteran, Indian fighter and frontiersman, was quick to see these advantages. He decided, therefore, to establish a townsite which would include the water-power on the Redwood river, at the fall of which the government had established a sawmill as early as 1855. Accordingly, the present site of the village of Redwood Falls was selected as the location of one of the patrol posts.

In the center of what is now the block bounded by Jefferson, Washington, Second and Third streets, a stockade was erected of prairie sod, reinforced with poles and logs. The wall was some eight feet high, with a ditch around it. At the center of the east and west walls were plank gates, the drive connecting these two gates and running through the center of the stockade, being along the line of the alley now dividing the block. Here and there in the walls portholes had been cut, through which guns could be fired in case of attack.

Inside of this stockade McPhail, with the help of the soldiers, erected his now famous cabin, which is still standing in the Ramsey State Park. In this cabin McPhail, with the soldier patrol and a few pioneers, started the settlement of Redwood county.

There is evidence in Col. McPhail's letters, that the few Indians still remaining in the vicinity kept the little colony constantly on the alert during the whole of this first summer. On May 24, to Col. Pfaender in command at Fort Ridgely, he says: "There are in this vicinity six or eight straggling Indians. If

you could send up ten or twelve cavalry for a few days, with our aid I feel confident we could capture them." On June 2 he wrote to Gen. Sibley: "We are and have been greatly annoyed by small bands of prowling Indians. We would respectfully ask, if not inconsistent with the public service, that you grant us a small detachment of troops." Again, under the date of June 14, to the adjutant general, Oscar Malmros, he says: "Send me to Fort Ridgely twenty Springfield rifles, also 1,000 round ball cartridges. Should we use these cartridges, we will pay for them with scalps, that is, if the bounty of \$200 still holds good; if not, then charge them to the good of the service." The authorities responded to the appeals by sending guns and ammunition on July 28.

In addition to the constantly passing patrol, detachments of soldiers were assigned to the stockade at various times as sentinel squads. It is said that in December, twelve former Confederate soldiers were stationed here for that purpose. During the summer, McPhail kept the merits of his new town constantly before the public by articles in various newspapers. In this connection a story of McPhail's characteristic humor is told by the old settlers. McPhail, in writing up a Fourth of July celebration for a Mankato paper, spoke of the large and respectable audience present. Afterwards, upon discovering that only one person besides McPhail was present at the celebration, the editor of the paper took him severely to task for his deception.

"Well," said the Colonel, in his characteristic, squeaky voice, "I wrote you the exact truth about it. I am large and Martin is respectable, so we had a large and respectable audience."

On July 12, 1864, the little community began to feel the want of a postoffice and petitioned the postmaster general, setting forth that they were twenty-two miles from the nearest office and praying that an office be established at Redwood Falls, which petition was granted in the fall, Saml. R. Thompson being appointed postmaster. The mail was brought by the soldiers from Fort Ridgely.

During 1864 pioneer were constantly going and coming. Sometime in the spring or summer, William Post and Frank Kennedy are said to have arrived, taken a claim west of the river and planted some potatoes, corn and melons. They did not, however, remain permanently.

During the winter of 1864-65 there was quite a little settlement inside the stockade. McPhail's family at that time consisted of his wife and his children: John and Etta. The family of J. S. G. Honner consisted of himself, his wife and his three sons, Edward, Howard, and William. In the Honner cabin, later enlarged, was kept the first hotel in the country. The family of Saml. R. Thompson consisted of his wife and three children. Jacob Tippery's family consisted of himself, his wife and three daughters



and two sons, Miles and Jacob. Mr. Tippery was here through the winter, the wife and family here for a while then went away and finally came back to live in 1865, in which year they were joined by a son, Miles, who had been serving in the army. Edmund Forgate and family also spent that winter here and erected the first house on the town site outside of the stockade.

Among the men here without their families that winter were O. C. Martin, T. W. Caster, George Charter and "Pom" Angel. David Watson spent the winter here and erected, inside the stockade, the first frame house on the village site, the other five houses were of logs. J. W. Harkness was here in 1864. He and his brother, Daniel, located here in 1865. Birney Flynn also visited here in 1864.

The only people who lived outside of the stockade that winter were George Johnson and his son, Marion Johnson, who came in October, 1864, slept one night in the stockade and then located on the banks of Tiger lake, on the town line of Honner and Paxton.

In 1865 the families in the stockade began to move outside. Some remained on the town site and took claims in the neighborhood. Others moved out into the country.

In the spring Dr. D. L. Hitchcock moved into the McPhail cabin. This made three families living in the McPhail cabin, the Thompson family living in a "leanto" on the west, the Hitchcock family on the east side, and the McPhail family in the center. A few days later, Birney Flynn brought his family here. Mrs. Hitchcock and Mrs. Flynn were a distinct addition to the social life of the community. The only ladies who were here when they arrived were Mrs. Honner, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. McPhail and Mrs. Fosgate.

In the same year came the families of O. C. Martin, George Charter and David Watson. The Charter family consisted of Mr. Charter, his wife and children, Emma, Solomon R., who soon died, November 22, and Elizabeth. A son, Henry F., was born to Mr. and Mrs. Charter, December 27, 1867. Emma Charter married Samuel R. Thompson.

By July 4, 1865 quite a few families were living in Redwood county. A big dinner was served in what is now the city park. The oration of the day was delivered by Col. McPhail, and a flag manufactured by the ladies was proudly put into service.

The first birth in Redwood Falls was that of Harry, the son of John R. and Maggie Thompson, born in February, 1865.

The first death was that of William Honner, the young son of J. G. S. Honner, who died April 12, 1865.

The first marriage was that of William Morrill and Hattie Tippery, the daughter of Jacob Tippery. The ceremony was performed by Col. McPhail as justice of the peace in July, 1865, at the home of the bride's parents. Mr. Morrill, who had previously

been a soldier, erected a house that year, into which he and his bride moved.

Previous publications have stated that the first marriage took place under the falls, April 10, 1865. The contracting parties were George Coffee and Amanda Cole, O. C. Martin, justice of the peace, presiding. The contracting parties are not known to the early settlers and early historians have failed to state their authority for the statements concerning this marriage.

The first religious services were held by a Baptist clergyman in August, 1865, at the home of J. S. G. Honner.

The first blacksmith shop was opened in the spring of 1865 by John Thomas in the rear of his present residence.

As already noted, the first hotel in Redwood Falls was kept by J. S. G. Honner, in his cabin inside the stockade. The next hotel was kept by William Mills, the mail carrier. The first regular hotel, however, was opened in 1867 by James McMillan on the present site of the county jail. This inn, called the "Exchange Hotel," was the pioneer social center of Redwood Falls for some years.

The first mail, with Saml. R. Thompson as postmaster, was brought from Fort Ridgely every other day by the soldier patrol. Later William Mills, who succeeded J. S. G. Honner as hotel keeper, brought the mail from St. Peter once a week. Still later, Mr. Mills was the mail carrier between Redwood Falls and New Ulm. An amusing story is told in connection with his encounter with a bear in the early days. One morning on his way toward Fort Ridgely with the mail, he had reached a point near the old Sioux Agency when he met a large bear. With his gun, which he always carried with him, he shot the bear and evidently stunned him. Thinking Bruin dead, Mr. Mills approached him for the purpose of taking his skin, when the animal arose, made a leap at his throat and put up a most vigorous fight. The bear was finally killed, but in the meantime Mr. Mills was almost entirely denuded of clothing and had to return to Redwood Falls scratched and bleeding with the bear's pelt, but decidedly in need of covering for himself.

February 9, 1865, Captain Louis Robert arrived in Redwood Falls with a stock of goods and the next day opened the first store in Redwood Falls, inside the stockade. He made his first sale to Julia Williams, the school teacher, selling her ten yards of calico for \$6.00. In the fall of that year Captain Roberts erected a store outside the stockade. It occupied the present site of the Red Stensvad garage, about on lots 4 and 5, block 10, on the south side of Second street, between Jefferson and Washington streets.

July 17, 1865, Henry Behnke and Brother of New Ulm erected a store on the south side of Second street, between Washington

and Mill streets, about on lot 4, block 15. A. M. Northrup was put in charge. Later the firm built a store on lot 12, block 16, where the First National Bank is now located. The first blow toward erecting the original building was struck July 17, 1865, and the building was ready for occupancy on the 24th, the first goods being sold that day. The building was 18x30 feet, one and one-half stories high. A dance held on the evening of the 24th celebrated its completion. The third store in Redwood Falls was opened in 1868 by Stickle & Scott, on lot 6, block 10, the present location of the State Bank of Redwood Falls.

Colonel McPhail's claim included the fractional north half of the north half of section 1, township 112, range 36, and the south half of the southeast quarter of section 36, township 113, range 36. T. W. Caster's claim covered a portion of the north half of section 1, township 112, range 36. The town site was located on the claim of Colonel McPhail and a portion of that of Caster. McPhail bought of Caster his part of the site and late in 1865 he platted it, employing David Watson as surveyor. Philip Osborn was McPhail's holding agent and many of the abstracts in the village bear his name as the original owner. McPhail had an interesting method of disposing of his lots. He sold 20 lots for \$100. A person buying these lots did not know the exact location of the lots he was acquiring. The purchaser paid his \$100 and waited until the day of the drawing. On that day the numbers of all the lots in the village were placed in a box and twenty numbers drawn therefrom at random in the name of the various purchasers. Thus each man owned twenty lots scattered in various parts of the village. It is said that McPhail sold more lots than he had platted, and that as the day of the drawing drew near he was compelled to hastily plat a few more blocks in order that all might receive the number of lots that had been paid for.

The early assessment rolls still preserved at the Redwood Falls courthouse are illuminating in that they give the names of the pioneer property owners. The first assessment rolls on file are those of August 1, 1868, when returns were made for Redwood Falls and Yellow Medicine townships. These two townships then constituted the whole of Redwood county, which at that time extended to the state line. The assessment in Redwood Falls township was made by Robert Watson.

Land in what is now Redwood county had then been taken as follows:

**Morgan.** In sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34.

**Sherman.** In sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 and 36.

**Three Lakes.** In sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 23 and 24.

**Paxton.** In sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36.

**Honner.** In sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 36.

**Charlestown.** In section 25.

**Redwood Falls.** In sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 36.

**Delhi.** In sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36. Also in town 114, range 36 a part of section 31.

**Sheridan.** In sections 1 and 12.

**Kintire.** In sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, and 36.

**Swedes Forest.** In sections 7, 8, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36.

**Morgan.** John A. Willard and O. P. Whitecomb owned land in section 1, Frederick Evertsburly and Geo. B. Wright, in section 2; Isaac P. Olmstead, Geo. B. Wright and John Shillock, in section 3; Geo. B. Wright and Wm. F. Davidson in sections 4, 5, 16 and 21; Wm. F. Davidson in sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34; John Shillock and Wm. F. Davidson in section 10; Geo. B. Wright and Chas. Shumacker in section 11; Christopher Burton and Chas. Schumacker in section 12; Mark Howard in sections 13, 14 and 23; Geo. B. Wright in sections 15 and 22; Mark Howard and Geo. B. Wright in section 24.

**Sherman.** Lahiva G. Clough and Henry W. Lamberton owned land in section 15; Henry Muller, Lahiva G. Clough and Henry W. Lamberton in section 16; John M. Little and Henry W. Lamberton in section 17; Andrew T. Hale and Geo. B. Wright in section 18; Andrew T. Hale, Chas. E. Vandelbergh and Henry K. Olmstead in section 19; Henry K. Olmstead and Geo. B. Wright in section 20; Andrew T. Hale, George B. Wright, Henry Muller and Henry W. Lamberton in section 21; Jacob Muller, Henry Muller, Henry W. Lamberton, William S. Root and Edward McCormack in section 22; Jacob Muller, Lahiva G. Clough, Charles T. Brown and Edward McCormack in section 23; Sarah M. Dresser in section 24; Sarah M. Dresser, J. Fredrick Putnam and Henry A. Swift in section 25; Sarah M. Dresser, John Willard, Orlin P. Whitecomb, Andrew T. Hale and Edward McCormack in section 26; Andrew T. Hale, Henry W. Lamberton and Edward McCormack in section 27; Andrew T. Hale, Chas. E. Vandelbergh, Geo. B. Wright and A. A. Knowlton in section 28; Chas. E. Vandelbergh, Amelia E. Tucker, Geo. B. Wright, A. A. Knowlton and James Graham in section 29; J. W. Paxton in sections 30 and 31; Amelia E. Tucker, Lahiva G. Clough, Chas. T. Brown and Geo. B. Wright in section 33; Amelia

E. Tucker and Geo. B. Wright in section 34; Andrew T. Hale, Henry A. Swift and Geo. B. Wright in section 35; and John A. Willard, Orlin P. Whitcomb and Henry A. Swift in section 36.

**Willow Lake.** Wm. F. Davidson owned land in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 23 and 24; and Myron K. Drew in section 5.

**Paxton.** Orvis A. Mason, Mark Howard and Norman Webster owned land in section 4; George P. Morse and James C. Bwins in section 5; Harvey Wingate, Elizabeth Angel, Park Worden, George G. Beardley, Elizabeth M. Robinson, Maria Mason and D. L. Bigham in section 6; Anna E. Springgate, John B. Downer, Orlin P. Whitcomb and John A. Willard in section 7; George P. Morse, James C. Bwins, John B. Downer and William H. Horr in section 8; William B. Haslip, Andrew T. Hale, Geo. B. Wright and Julius Meyer in section 9; John A. Willard, Orlin P. Whitcomb, Joseph Brown and Henry C. Baker in section 18; J. W. Paxton and Geo. B. Wright in sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 20 and 23; Jacob A. Parmeter in section 12; George F. Stevens, Geo. B. Wright and Asa B. Barton in section 17; Andrew T. Hale and Mark Howard in section 18; J. W. Paxton and Sam McPhail in section 19; J. W. Paxton in sections 10, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33 and 36; J. W. Paxton and James W. Justice in section 30; and Wm. F. Davidson in sections 34 and 35.

**Honner.** William Pfaender owned land in section 18; J. S. G. Honner, Wm. Woodward, Wm. Harding and Wm. Pfaender in section 19; J. S. G. Honner and John Andrews in section 20; Christian Kuenzli in section 21; Eliva T. Jones, Hugh Casey, Christian Kuenzli and John M. Chapin in section 28; John M. Morton, D. L. Hitchcock, Christian Kuenzli and Ener Birum in section 29, E. and C. C. Birum; J. S. G. Honner, Rufus C. Cole, George Houghton, William Harding, Susan Brown and Meuis Pervus in section 30; Birney Flynn, Pam Angel, Phebe E. Watson, D. Watson, Martha E. Watson, J. E. Pope and Francis Vanin in section 31; Daniel C. Harkness, Ener Birum, D. L. Hitchcock and Abigah M. Northrop in section 32; Eliva T. Jones, Giles Farmin, John M. Chapin and Mary Mansfield in section 33; Bernhardt Kuenzli, George Johnson and James A. Bailey in section 34; Orvis S. Mason and Norman Webster in section 36.

**Charlestown.** All of section 25 had been taken. Rachel Bean owned the southeast quarter and Wm. H. Harrison the rest of the section. A notation is made that Joseph H. Bean lived in township 107, range 38, in Cottonwood county.

**Redwood Falls.** Ly Brand & Thompson, Chas. Folsom, Peter Ört, John R. Thompson, Philip Osborn, D. L. Hitchcock, Sam McPhail and Wm. Beard owned land in section 1; Jacob Tippery, Wm. Beard, Peter Ört, J. A. Willard, O. P. Whitcomb, John R. Thompson and Wm. H. Morrell in section 2; J. A. Willard and

O. P. Whitecomb and Lorenzo Darling in section 3; James S. Daniels and Geo. B. Wright in section 4; Chas. E. Vandelburgh, Geo. B. Wright and Samuel Herron in section 5; Geo. B. Wright, James Harvey and Samuel Herron in section 6; George B. Wright in section 7; Charles E. Vandelburgh and George B. Wright in section 8; Charles E. Vandelburg, John Gleason, Mark Howard and H. W. Lamberton in section 9; S. S. Repler, W. J. Jackson and Henry A. Swift in section 10; J. R. Thompson, Joseph Wagner, William Beard, J. A. Willard and O. P. Whitecomb and Adie C. Austin and George B. Wright, in section 11; Wm. Beard, Chas. Folsom, Lewis M. Baker, J. R. Thompson, John Andrew, J. A. Willard and O. P. Whitecomb and Pulaski Broughton in section 12; John Andrews, Albert H. Childs, Newell Worden, Sanford C. Baker and A. T. Hale in section 13; Crescentia Wagner, Joseph Wagner and John R. Bigham in section 14; S. S. Repler and W. J. Jackson, Chas. E. Vandelburgh and Geo. B. Wright in section 15; Calvin C. Proctor in section 16; Catharine R. Prior and Geo. B. Wright in section 17; Geo. B. Wright in section 18; Benj. Prior in section 20; Benj. Prior, Theodore D. Lyman and Leanord Prior in section 21; J. W. Paxton in sections 23, 25, 26, 27 and 36; Frank Patterson and J. W. Paxton in section 24; Theodore D. Lyman in section 28.

**Delhi.** Henry G. Abbott and G. B. Mason owned land in section 4; Henry G. Abbott in section 5; Eliza I. Dausingburgh, Geo. B. Wright and Asa G. Felton in section 6; Mark Howard, Geo. B. Wright and John B. Downer in section 7; Mark Howard in section 8; Andrew T. Hale, Amelia E. Tucker, Hiram B. Pettersson and C. B. Mason in section 9; William Brown, Hiram B. Patterson and George B. Mason in section 10; Carl Simonette, Tallak Broken and Hartwell Allen in section 13; Wm. Skinner, Geo. H. Eastman and W. G. Gates in section 14; W. H. Lamberton and Geo. I. Snitinger in section 15; Benj. P. Lamberton in section 16; Elizabeth M. Moreland, Chas. Bryant and Asa Felton in section 17; George Eckhardt, Simon A. Colson, John B. Downer and Sumner Ladd in section 18; Oliver M. Leavens and George Eckhardt in section 19; Oliver M. Leavens and John Blair in section 20; John Blair and W. H. Lamberton in section 21; Daniel Jones, Benj. P. Lamberton and Mark Howard in section 22; S. S. Repler and W. J. Jackson, John S. Davies and Edwin Lloyd in section 23; S. S. Repler and W. J. Jackson, Asa Barton, Tallak Broken and Simon A. Colson in section 24; Joel B. Clough, Francis H. Whitman, Geo. Houghton, ——— Soule, Meuis Peenus, John B. Downer and Peter Dausnigbury in section 25; Lorenzo E. Darling and Chas. E. Fogg in section 26; Ezra M. Birdley, Mark Howard and Evan Williams in section 27; John A. Willard in sections 28, 29 and 30; Henry W. Lamberton, Archibald Noble, John Blair, James G. Stoddard in section 31; Henry W. Lamber-



ton and John A. Willard in section 32; John A. Willard and Orlin P. Whitecomb and Chas. E. Vandelburgh in section 33; John A. Willard and Orlin P. Whitecomb in section 34; Lorenzo E. Darling and John B. Downer, ———Soule in section 35; and J. W. Griswold, Joel B. Clough, John B. McMillan, Geo. B. Wright, Francis H. Whitman, Sam McPhail, Park Worden, O. C. Martin, Mary J. Martin, Ly Brand and Thompson, Redwood Mill Co., Harrison Wilson and C. P. Griswold in section 36; township 114-36, Jas. M. House and Simon Gibhart owned land in section 31.

**Sheridan.** John Beattie and George Smith owned land in section 1; and George Smith in section 12.

**Kintire.** Simon Gibhart, Asa G. Felton and Alfred M. Cook owned land in section 1; Israel Sheldon, Charles S. Plummer and Alfred M. Cook in section 2; Simon Gibhart in sections 3 and 4; John I. Parry in sections 5 and 6; Burnham Hanson in section 9; Burnham Hanson and Alfred M. Cook in section 10; Myron K. Drew and Geo. W. Clark in section 11; Jas. M. House, Alfred M. Cook and John B. Downer in section 12; John B. Downer, Hiram H. Butts and Stanford Holland in section 13; Jas. M. House and Mary A. Stickle in section 14; Jas. E. Morrell in section 15; Mary A. Stickle in section 22; Myron H. Allen in section 23; Stanford Holland and Phillip Hope, Jr., in section 24; Alfred M. Cook and Jas. G. Stoddard in section 36.

**Swedes Forest.** Torkle Oleson owned land in section 7; Knud Knudson in sections 8 and 11; Torkle Oleson in section 12; Iver Iverson in section 19; Caroline A. Fogg in section 21; Charles E. Fogg in section 22; Henry G. Abbott in section 23; Alfred M. Cook in section 24; Alfred M. Cook, Fred Holt, Fredrick Wolte and Henry G. Abbott in section 25; Charles Johnson Aams, Henry G. Abbott, Fredrick Holt in section 26; Charles E. Fogg, Henry G. Abbott in section 27; Israel Sheldon in section 28; Alfred M. Cook, J. W. Sprague, H. A. Swift and H. W. Lamberton in section 29; H. A. Swift, Henry W. Lamberton, J. W. Sprague in section 30; John J. Parry in sections 31 and 32; Simon Gibhart in sections 33 and 34; Charles Johnson Aams in section 35; Henry J. Abbott, Asa Felton, James M. Round and Alfred M. Cook in section 36.

For publication in this work, the names of the personal tax payers of 1868 have been divided according to present day boundary lines by D. L. Bigham and M. E. Powell, both of whom were personally acquainted with nearly all the men in these lists.

Redwood Falls township and village: John Andrews, D. L. Bigham, H. C. Baker, John P. Baker, Louis M. Baker, Behnke Brothers (New Ulm), P. B. Broughton, S. A. Briggs, George Charter, E. A. Chandler, James B. Davidson, I. C. Dwyer, Edmund Fosgate, Birney Flinn, Charles Folsom, C. P. Griswold,



S. S. Goodrich, E. R. Harkness, D. L. Harkness, D. L. Hitchcock, Edward March, James McMillan, O. C. Martin, William H. Morrell, Sam McPhail, A. M. Northrup, John Noble, L. O. Root, S. J. F. Rutter, Louis Robert, William Simmons, John H. Thomas, F. Watson, Robert Watson, Park Worden and William Walker.

**Charlestown.** Joseph F. Bean, Charles Porter, Joseph Wagner.

**Paxton.** S. E. Bailey, F. W. Byington, C. D. Chapman, William H. Cornell, John Duser, Godfrey Luscher, O. A. Mason, Peter Ort, Norman Webster, Alpheus Wilson, Thomas McMillan, D. O. King and John Little.

**Honner.** High Curry, William Davis, C. W. Fleischauer, J. S. G. Honner, George Johnson, D. O. King, Bernhart Kuenzli and Sebastian Wandrou.

**Sheridan.** Charles Holton and G. G. Sanford.

**Sherman.** Jacob J. Light, William McGinnis, Edward McCormack, Oliver Martell, O. W. Newton, Frederick Putnam, William Root, L. J. Russell, James Stephens, I. M. C. Tower, James Arnold.

**Delhi.** J. W. Paxton, James Anderson, Jacob Tippiery.

**Swedes Forest.** Nelse Swenson.

**Springdale.** Joseph Steves.

**Unknown.** F. Bilsing, Jacob Boyse, William Boyer, C. Hall, E. Z. Karry, H. B. Patterson and Lorenzo Busch.

The construction of the Stockade has been described. In 1865 a few frame houses began to go up about Redwood Falls. Some of the pioneers were fortunate in that they moved into log or brick houses made for the Indians before the Massacre. But for the most part the early pioneers in the vicinity of Redwood Falls built their cabins of logs, some of which were obtained from cabins ruined during the Massacre. Some of these cabins of the pioneers were thatched with bark, and the floors consisted mostly of trampled earth.

However, the government saw mill at the falls of the Redwood, which was put in renewed operations soon after the arrival of the first settlers had a strong influence on the architecture of the early houses around Redwood Falls. The Scandinavian people built many dugouts, especially back from the river in Swedes Forest township. The Danes in Brookville and Sundown and the Scandinavians in Gales, Johnsonville, Springdale and North Hero also had a number of dugouts. However, for the most part, the habitations in the southern part of the county were sod houses, partly underground and partly overground. Some of these sod houses were whitewashed on the outside, boarded up on the inside and made quite comfortable homes. In the central part of the county the early houses were for the most part of board, though many of these were reinforced with sod, sometimes with straw and hay. Most of the houses of the vari-

ous kinds, log cabins, dugouts, board and sod, had a small window 8 by 10 window glass and one door made from sawed lumber.

A vital influence on the type of houses in Redwood county was exerted by the fact that D. L. Bigham established in 1869 at Redwood Falls the first lumber yard in the Minnesota valley west of New Ulm, purchasing lumber at \$15 to \$16 a thousand, paying \$10 freight, hauling it three miles from the landing to Redwood Falls and then selling it for \$32 a thousand. His object was to assist in building up the country rather than to make money, and the lumber from his yard was used in cabins from Redwood Falls to the state line. The first load of lumber was brought from St. Paul in 1868 aboard the boat "Pioneer," which he chartered for this purpose. About 1870, he made a contract with a lumber company owning saw mills on the St. Croix river and that with the boat "St. Anthony," and its barge brought the lumber to the Redwood landing, from which place Mr. Bigham had it hauled three miles to Redwood Falls. The river trip was one beset with many hazards, and often Mr. Bigham's lumber was scattered along the river bank everywhere from Mankato to Redwood landing.

Most of the early settlers came here with horses, intending to use those animals for farming work. They soon found, however, that they were not suitable for pioneer endeavor in this climate, and while a few of the pioneers kept their horses for driving purposes, most of the work was done by oxen, who could comfortably weather these cold winters and who could survive on marsh hay, wheat straw and rutabagas.

None of the land in the Indian reservation was subject to homestead or pre-emption entry, it was put in the market December 7, 1867. The land office was at St. Peter. In the fall of 1866 commissioners of the government appraised the lands within the reservation on which some claims had already been made. They valued the land at prices varying from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre, excepting special tracts covered with valuable timber, well situated, and lands where improvements in the form of buildings or otherwise, had been made. These lands in some cases sold as high as \$7 per acre, where the government had made improvements for the benefit of the Sioux. Houses of brick or of wood had, as stated, been built at various points up and down the reservation and a clay pit and brick yard opened at Yellow Medicine. It was reasonable therefore that wide difference should be made in the appraisal of land.

In addition to their homestead and pre-emption laws, pioneers in this region had the opportunity of taking a tree claim of 160 acres. To prove up on a tree claim, it was originally necessary to bring proof that 40 acres of timber had been planted thereon and had been growing for five years. The act was several times

amended and finally reduced to 10 acres. Only one tree claim could be taken in each section. It is said that only one tract in Redwood county fully complied with the provisions of the original tree claim act. In Gales township one man planted the 40 acres and at the end of five years was able to adduce proof that not a single tree was missing. In the early days, aside from securing the tree claim by planting trees, the settlers were also paid a bounty by the state for each acre of growing timber which they had planted on their claims.

The land office of the Redwood Falls land district was established in July, 1872, with Col. B. F. Smith, registrar, and Major W. H. Kelley, receiver. Several years later the office was removed to Marshall.

The census of 1870 gave Redwood county a population of 1,829. The county then extended to the state line. Sheridan and Sherman had their present boundaries. Redwood Falls township took in practically all of the remainder of what is now Redwood county. In addition to this there were a few settlers in the western part of the county, and a few in Swedes Forest. The settlers in Swedes Forest were for the most part Scandinavian. The settlers in the western part of the county were a mixture of Scandinavians, Germans and Americans. The settlers around Redwood Falls were for the most part American and Scotch. The settlers in Sherman were American, Scotch and Irish, only a few Germans having at that time arrived.

Unlike many counties of the state, the county was at that time predominantly American. Of the 1,829 people in the county 1,147 were native born and only 682 foreign born. Of the 682 foreign born, 286 were from English speaking countries, leaving only 396 from foreign speaking countries. Of the 1,147 natives there were 341 born in this state, 183 in New York state, 161 in Wisconsin, 62 in Ohio, 77 in Pennsylvania, 65 in Illinois, and the remainder in other states.

Of the 682 foreign born, 176 were born in British America (these were mostly of Scotch ancestry), 52 in England or Wales, 32 in Ireland, 26 in Scotland, 62 in Germany, 319 in Norway or Sweden, 6 in Switzerland and 9 in Denmark.

Of the 111 people in Sheridan, 52 were native and 59 foreign. Of the 691 in Redwood Falls, 492 were native and 199 foreign. Of the 67 in Sherman, 50 were native and 17 foreign. The only colored man in the whole county was in Sherman. Of the 307 people in Lac qui Parle county, 115 were native and 192 foreign. Of the 268 people in Lynd, 235 were native and 33 foreign. Of the 385 people in Yellow Medicine, 203 were native and 182 were foreign.

In 1872, at the close of the pioneer period, the railroad was built through the southern part of the county, and a few stores

were established there. The hard winter, however, caused railroad business to be suspended during the winter of 1872-73.

Many of the early pioneers were typical Yankee frontiersmen, lovers of the wilds who were ever on the front crest of the advancing tide of civilization, and as soon as settlers followed them in any number, they made their way further into the wilderness. However, many came here with a view to making this their permanent home. Nearly all the Danish people in the southeastern part of the county, the Scandinavians in the southwestern and northwestern parts, the Scotch people who made their principal settlements in Delhi and Redwood Falls, and the German people who settled through the central part of the county, as an overflow of the Brown county settlements, as well as the Bohemians who arrived later, came for the purpose of establishing homes rather than in a spirit of adventure. Many, too, of the Americans remained, and such present-day names as Powell, Hitchcock, Johnson, Bingham, Martin, Thomas, go back to the days of the very earliest settlements.

Barney Flynn, David Watson and D. L. Bigham located nearly all the early settlers in the northern part of Redwood county. Scarcely a day in the late sixties passed by without their driving some one out on the prairie for the purpose of staking a claim.

**Authority.** "History of the Minnesota Valley," 1884.

"Early Days in Redwood County," by O. B. Turrell, published in the "Collections" of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Personal testimony of Pamela Davison (Mrs. D. L.) Hitchcock, who reached Redwood Falls in 1865.

Personal testimony of Marion Johnson, who reached Redwood Falls in 1864.

Personal testimony of Major M. E. Powell, who reached Redwood Falls in 1867. Major Powell had served in the Civil war with Col. Sam McPhail, and was his personal friend for many years thereafter. He many times heard the story of the first settlement from McPhail's own lips.

## CHAPTER XLII.

### REDWOOD FALLS PARKS.

It has become the fixed policy of many towns and of all large cities, also of states and the national government to acquire the ownership of tracts of special scenic value, in order to protect them from spoilation for commercial gain or the limited and exclusive use of private ownership, and maintain them as recreation grounds for the pleasure and welfare of all their citizens.

Although Redwood Falls is located central to the largest prairie area of Minnesota, in the edge of what was once known as the Great American Desert, extending many hundreds of miles across the territory of the middle West, its system of scenic parks and driveways is not equalled in variety of strikingly picturesque effects by any tract of its size.

This remarkable exhibit is the result of rock formations fixed during geological periods, ages before the earth was fit for the habitation of man, and to its location at the junction of the valleys of the Ramsey and Redwood river near to where the Redwood valley opens out into the deeply depressed bottom lands of the Minnesota.

Underlying beds of granite rock come nearer to the surface level of the country at this point than elsewhere so that both streams have a very tortuous and zig zag course as they have found or made their way over, between and through the immense rock ledges which they have uncovered and these streams are a continuous succession of rapids and waterfalls until they descend to about 200 feet below the surrounding prairie level.

The shelter of the valleys with their moisture from the streams and the frequent springs which formed deep ravines extending farther out into the higher lands gave protection in early times against the ravages of the prairie fires which swept and blackened this region at every fall season, and preserved a heavy growth of timber and abundant wild animal life which made this a veritable oasis in a desert prairie waste.

**Lake Redwood Park.** To preserve a considerable portion of this tract in the primitive condition as found by the white man would seem to be a sufficiently ambitious enterprise of this kind, but a closer observation of the extensive widening of the Redwood valley above the narrow rock gorge which extends under the river bridge disclosed that here was a natural basin for holding a water reservoir extending several miles up the river that would be a valuable addition to the recreational resources of the town. The building of a high dam for this purpose would not be producing an altogether artificial result, for it would be but reproducing a condition and appearance that existed at a still more primitive time at least thousands of years ago, before the torrents of the streams had ploughed their way through the rock barrier which then held the waters of the original Lake Redwood, which then, as now, rested so quietly along the winding course of the stream, with its shore line alternating with wooded bluffs and prairie slopes.

A rock crusher grinding the granite blasted from one side of the river, and a sand pit at the other side supplied materials which, mixed and cemented, was used to build the concrete dam for water power purposes.

The town purchased the land for overflowage, with an additional lakeside tract coming to within a block of a business street, equipped with boat houses, a public bath house and toboggan slide, with contract made with owner of the water power to maintain water at a specified high level. Redwood Falls now owns this Lake Redwood property of about 200 acres, which make liberal provision for outdoor summer and winter sports and recreation.

A flotilla of launches and row boats, a bandstand erected out in the lake, electric lighting of grounds for evening use, an additional park area three miles up the valley, where was built a large pavilion to accommodate picnic parties and excursionists, made this a popular resort until interest was diverted to other park development and to automobiling.

**Redwood Falls Park.** The next important acquisition to the scenic city park system was the original mill lot farther down the river containing the Redwood Falls, from which the town takes its name, and a considerable portion of the horseshoe bend in the river nearly surrounding a high wooded tableland and driveway overlooking the most picturesque portions of the stream. One rare feature of the tract is a nearly perpendicular northern slope, protected by its position and by foliage from the summer sun, supplied with moisture from rains, and exaporation from the stream below, kept cool by the underlying rock formation; all of which has induced the growth of acres of a thick cushion of mosses interspersed with lichens and ferns.

The utility of the water power resources at this point has had an important part in the development of this part of the state. Here, at the Redwood Falls, was built, by the United States government during the fifties, in reservation days, the first saw mill for the only supply of lumber for this region at that time. A few rods above this was later built the first grist mill in the upper Minnesota valley. A little later, still farther up stream, a second flour mill was erected, and this was followed by a third flour mill, which utilized the rapids around the bend below the Little Falls, making four improved water power sites within the village limits, all within a range of one hundred rods of each other. Most of this waterfall has now been combined by construction of a concrete flume extending along the bluff from near the upper level of Lake Redwood to a secluded corner of Redwood Falls park, where a small but neat, unpretentious building at the river's edge contains a modern, up-to-date power plant supplying light and heat and power to four towns for the varied industrial and household uses to which electricity can be applied.

The water drops from the upper lake level to the lower river level, nearly one hundred feet, the highest waterfall in Minnesota,



and still the power resources within the city limits are only partly developed.

It is doubtful if any other city of any size owns a tract so ruggedly picturesque adjacent to its business section and surrounded by its near resident districts, as the Redwood Falls park.

**Alexander Ramsey State Park.** Extending out from the town down the river, to its junction with the Ramsey valley, is a larger park area purchased by the state of Minnesota and known as the Ramsey state park. The Redwood river enters this tract on the east, through a deep rock gorge with massive granite walls, while Ramsey creek tumbles along its tortuous course from the west over beds of boulders until it plunges over the perpendicular rock precipice known as the Ramsey falls, about the same height as the Minnehaha.

The water basin at the foot of the falls, nearly surrounded by towering masses of granite to which cling mosses and vines, and the red cedar trees with their rich evergreen foliage, the deep gulch below the glens above, all surrounded by extremely abrupt surfaces of wooded hills and bluffs, make a setting for a waterfall scene that is rarely equaled.

The different levels of the park, from the low bottom lands to the high exposed portions, the varied soils and sub-soils and exposures to all points of the compass, have given growth to so many species of plant and flower and vine and bush and tree that it is a veritable botanical garden of wild plant life.

It is still within the memory of old settlers that elk, deer, bear, lynx and buffalo, as well as many smaller animals had their home in this vicinity.

All shooting is prohibited in the park and within the city limits, many bird houses built, roomy enclosures for deer and elk and other provision made for the return of wild animal life.

The park contains large deposits of sand, beds of gravel and heavy clays and unlimited supplies of granite in various stages of decomposition, providing the best materials for roadbeds and surface finishing, while there are nearby deposits of lignite coal, pure white kaolin, iron ore, paint rock and cliffs of cream white clay and other deposits of geologic and commercial interest.

**Easy Access to Parks.** The scenic city parks cannot be "improved," as is usually necessary with city park development, as their chief attraction will always depend on the policy of their present management to preserve them unchanged, except to provide that its features shall be easily accessible by maintaining the several miles of winding driveways and river crossings which have been constructed to reach, by easy grades, all levels and extremities and to extend the system of foot paths to the otherwise inaccessible portions.

Redwood Falls is a central point in the construction of state



roads, while all roads are usually good in this section during the outing season of the year. It is within a five-hour ride by train or an easy auto trip from the twin cities.

Passing through here is one of the main routes through the state from the cities to the Dakota line, which is a part of the "Black and Yellow Trail" extending from Chicago through Minnesota and the Black Hills of South Dakota to the Yellowstone park, which will become the most popular scenic auto route of the northwest.

The success of any public enterprise which is not distinctly commercial in its character is the result of co-operation of public-spirited citizens. A considerable number of these have contributed necessary assistance toward the development for public use of the scenic city parks, but each succeeding generation in Minnesota will be deeply indebted for what will become the most notable scenic attraction of the state.

First, to Dr. J. G. Rhieldaffer and family, who owned the Ramsey park tract for over forty years without revenue. During this time they made no restriction on its use for recreation purposes, and never allowed it to be despoiled, even by pasturing, so that a riotous growth of wild flowering plants blooming from the earliest to the latest growing season covers nearly its entire area.

It is seldom that so long a continued private ownership of a tract of this kind has resulted in so great a public benefit, for it easily could have been put to such use as would be disastrous to its park value. It passed to state ownership at a very moderate estimate of price, the entire purchase cost of the Ramsey park being slightly more than \$4,000.00, being about the same amount as paid by the city of Redwood Falls for the Lake Park area.

Dr. Rhieldaffer was a prominent early resident of St. Paul contemporary with Governor Ramsey, and of the same type of sterling character and public spirit, and was a state official before coming to Redwood Falls.

The moving spirit behind the park project has been H. M. Hitchcock, whose hard work, enthusiasm and unselfish devotion have been important factors in making the park possible.

The legislative campaign for establishing the Ramsey park was directed by Senator Frank Clague, representing this district. His long service in the legislature was of such a character that he held some of its most responsible official positions. His persistent record of opposition to extravagant appropriations gave his recommendation weight. Senator Clague's advocacy, with the loyal co-operation of Representative Jos. R. Keefe in the house, secured a practically unanimous vote for the purchase and improvement of Ramsey park in the session of 1911. During the succeeding sessions unreserved support of maintenance appropriations

have been given by Representatives C. M. Bendixen, Albert Hauser and by Senator Potter, all of them advocating as a fortunate privilege, especially to those of this prairie section of the state, to provide so close at hand this miniature duplicate of the rugged scenes of the west and of the forest reserve of the north.

The greatest personal obligation, however, for the pleasures of the park are to Commissioner Jos. Tyson, who enthusiastically devotes his chief interest and most of his time to this project. He has proven himself an expert in road construction, which has been the most difficult, but the most necessary part of his job, and this has been splendidly accomplished without any payment for high priced professional engineer's service. From early hours to late during the working season, he has closely superintended every improvement, and it is a marvel to those of good judgment of this work that so much has been accomplished with so little expenditure. A small annual payment is allotted by the state auditor for Mr. Tyson's services, but they would be just as freely given without any payment, and could not be more so with several times the amount. Under his administration, the purposes of the park are being realized with the attendance, frequently to hundreds and on special occasions, thousands of visitors. It is due to Mr. Tyson's management that Ramsey park is becoming the most popular and the most liberally utilized of any of the small investments that Minnesota has made.

**Indian Legend.** The utility and attractiveness of this portion of Redwood county had a determining influence over much early history of unusual interest pertaining to the development of this part of western Minnesota, beginning with the occurrence which gave origin to the name of the Redwood river.

The name is a translation of the Indian word Tehansayapi, the only name by which the river was known up to the territorial days of Minnesota, and is the name still commonly used by the Sioux Indians now living in Redwood county.

Even as late as 1869, the American encyclopedia published in that year describes the river and designates it by this Indian name.

It is generally supposed that the name Redwood was chosen because of the abundant growth of the red cedar trees, which rooted themselves in the rock crevices and is one of the characteristic features of the locality.

Inquiry of the state historical society secures the statement that the Indians named this river because of the growth of the red willow or, as the Indians called it, kinnikinick, which grew more plentifully here than elsewhere, and they valued this highly for its bark which they gathered and dried and smoked.

The early settlers here remember that the smoking of kinnikinick was a common habit and custom among the Indians and

was used in fantastically shaped and decorated red pipestone pipes.

The pleasing effects of this use of the plant was not entirely imaginary for it has a soothing effect on the nerves. There has been extensive use of this plant as medicine and the chemist has analyzed it and extracted from it a fine white crystal effective in the relief of rheumatic and neuralgic pains, but its medicinal value was doubtless learned from the Indian medicine man.

Either one of these two views of the origin of the name of Redwood river seems sufficiently plausible to be accepted, but neither one is true according to a legend that is told among the Indians who should be the best authority on this question.

The name Tehansayapi, like many other Indian names, was chosen because of an important event and this occurred many years, probably many generations before the white explorer had ventured to the upper Mississippi or Minnesota valleys.

It is a natural supposition that here was one of the Indian's most happy hunting grounds, but this is more than a mere conjecture for the story that is told relates that this locality was so highly prized by both of the principal tribes who occupied this northwest territory, the Sioux from the west and the Chippewa's from the north and east, that there was a spirited contest between these two Indian nations for the possession.

At a certain time during this period of conflict, as a scouting party of Sioux Indians passed through the woods along the stream they marked trees with spots of red paint as a guide to a larger band of warriors who were to follow.

In commemoration of their success in finally securing undisputed possession of this region, the Sioux Indians christened the river with the name Tehansayapi, the word probably coined for this use, which being interpreted in the light of its origin, means the river by the trees painted red.

## CHAPTER XLIII.

### MERCANTILE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT.

(By F. W. Philbrick.)

Redwood Falls, the first town in Redwood county, was started by Col. McPhail, in 1864, and began to spread out from the stockade in the spring of 1865, taking its name from "Redwood River" and adding to it the name of the "Falls," which are located in its immediate vicinity.

At the first county election held in the fall of 1865, Redwood Falls was made the county seat of Redwood county, and has since continued to remain such.

The first general store to start in Redwood Falls, and the first in Redwood county, was that of Louis Robert, who, in the spring of 1865 opened a store on Second street, east of where the "Golden Rule" store now stands.

A little later in the same year another general store was opened up by Henry Behnke & Brother, and a store building erected by them on Second street.

Hustin & Garvin were the next to open a general store here in 1868, and prior to the year 1870 a number of business enterprises sprang into existence.

Among the list of the pioneers are the names of the four gentlemen who settled here at a very early date, and are still living here: John H. Thomas came in 1865 and opened the first blacksmith shop. D. L. Bigham came in 1868 and started the first lumber yard. Wm. Pitts Tenney arrived in 1870 and opened the first barber shop, called the "Pioneer." Milton E. Powell came the same year and opened a law office.

Among other early settlers, since passed away, who contributed largely to the interests and improvement of Redwood Falls in its early days, may be mentioned a few as follows: James McMillan, in 1865, built and operated the first hotel, The McMillan Hotel, name afterward changed to "Exchange Hotel." The Redwood (flour) mill, built in the year 1868, by Park and John Worden, was looked upon as a splendid addition to the new burg. This mill, located on the Redwood river, a short distance above the falls, has several times been overhauled and remodeled and is still in service. The Delhi Roller Mills, another flour mill, erected in 1869, by A. M. Cook & Son, was also considered a valuable acquisition to the new town. This mill was located a little distance up from the Redwood bridge. It was destroyed by fire in the early nineties.

The first newspaper published in Redwood Falls was the "Redwood Mail," established in 1869, by V. C. Seward. It was purchased in 1873 by William B. Herriott and the name changed to "Redwood Gazette," under which name it is now issued by Mrs. Bess M. Wilson.

Birney Flynn, another one of the very early settlers, came in 1865 and engaged in the real estate business. Before his death he was elected to, and held several county offices.

Doctor D. L. Hitchcock coming here in the later sixties, was the first physician to locate in the place; he also opened the first drug store which is still in existence, now being conducted by his son, H. M. Hitchcock.

David Watson was the first surveyor to arrive and locate in the new town. He also operated the first stage between Saint Peter and Redwood Falls.

Immediately following the year 1870 finds Redwood Falls

with a goodly number of business and professional men, among whom we mention Dr. Wm. D. Flinn, a noted physician and surgeon, who located here in 1870. He later became a member of the state medical board, afterward he was made its president; he was also a member of the U. S. Pension Board.

Judge H. D. Baldwin, another early and highly esteemed citizen, came here in the year 1871 and established a law office; since locating here he served as judge of probate and district judge; also other offices of trust.

Wm. F. Dickinson came here in 1871 and established the Bank of Redwood Falls. His death occurred a few years ago, then the affairs of his bank were taken over by the present First State Bank.

Geo. W. Braley also arrived here in 1871 and shortly after established the Redwood County Bank, which he continued to operate until his death in 1884, when his affairs were closed by administrator. In 1880 he was elected state senator from this district.

During the years intervening between 1870 and 1880, quite a number of new concerns located in the new town; also quite a few changes were made in the old concerns; of these we have not sufficient space here to mention.

Coming down now to the year 1880, the beginning of our own observations, we find Redwood Falls an enterprising little burg of about nine hundred population and about the only town of any particular importance within twenty-five miles of it.

A branch of the C. & N. W. R. R. from Sleepy Eye had been built in here in 1878. A depot and four elevators had been erected on its tracks and Redwood Falls now began to put on the appearance of a thriving city. However, the country tributary was but sparsely settled at this time and the community had just passed through the grasshopper scourge; trading was done mostly with butter and eggs, but merchants were blessed with a good outlet for disposing of these commodities and therefore able to pay their customers fairly good prices, which brought farmers to this market from a radius of thirty miles around. It is reliably stated that at one time upwards of 40,000 pounds of butter were held in the basements of two Redwood Falls merchants.

Later other branches of the C. & N. W. R. R. were built through the county and small towns began to spring up which had a tendency to draw more or less trade from Redwood Falls. The M. & St. L. R. R. also came along building their line through the northern portion of the county, establishing several small towns along its track, all of which trading territory had heretofore been tributary to Redwood Falls. One of these towns being the little town of North Redwood, located some two miles north of Redwood Falls, where three elevators have been built, taking from

this place quite a bit of grain that formerly came here. Yet, with these difficulties to contend with and overcome, Redwood Falls has steadily forged ahead until at the present time it has become a statewide noted little city of no small importance.

The principal business interests of Redwood Falls in 1880 were represented as follows: James McMillan, and Philbrick & Francois, general stores; Robt. A. Wilson, dry goods; W. S. Clayson, clothing; McKay & Race, Lechner & Ackman, and Wm. Crouley, groceries; D. L. Hitchcock and B. O'Hara, drugs; Laird & Dornberg and E. A. Chandler, hardware; Bishop Gordon and J. J. & C. W. Tiffany, agricultural implements; Liebguth & McConnel, meat market; Geo. Drake, harness goods; W. F. Dickinson, Bank of Redwood Falls; Geo. W. Braley, Redwood County Bank; Winona Lumber Co., C. W. George, agent; Laird, Norton Lumber Co., H. D. Chollar, agent; A. E. McCarty and Saml. Baker, liveryies; J. D. & Geo. W. Bunce, Commercial Hotel; J. W. Towsley & Son, Exchange Hotel; J. J. McDonald, Canada House; E. O. Chapman, wagon maker; Aiken & Rigby, Gazette Printing Office; Worden & Rutter, Redwood Flour Mills; Cook & Son, Delhi Roller Mills; Joseph Lichtwarek, Matt Offerman and F. M. O'Hara, saloons; Mrs. S. O'Jai and Mrs. T. E. Walton, millinery; Fred V. Hotchkiss, Wasson & Bager, Geo. F. Crooks and John Thomas, blacksmiths; Dr. Wm. D. Flinn and Dr. C. S. Stoddard, physicians and surgeons; M. E. Powell, H. D. Baldwin and Alfred Wallin, lawyers.

Redwood Falls also contained at this time four elevators, three churches (Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal), a fairly good school building, a County Court House, and a branch of the U. S. Land Office with Wm. P. Dunnington, register, and Wm. B. Herriott, receiver.

The principal business streets were Second and Mill streets, but owing to a fire that occurred in January, 1886, destroying eleven of the business buildings on the north side of Second street, between Washington and Mill streets, a change in the business location was brought about.

Washington street now began to take the lead by building a row of substantial two-story brick buildings on each side of the street between Second and Third streets. Prior to this time there was but one brick building in the place. Immediately after the fire the village council passed a fire ordinance prohibiting all frame buildings being built within the business district; so while this fire was quite a loss to the community in many ways, it proved to be a good thing in other ways, being the means of starting up the building of good substantial brick buildings in place of those wooden ones destroyed.

Of the business men doing business in Redwood Falls in 1880 there are but two remaining in business at the present time,



namely: H. M. Hitchcock, drugs, and F. W. Philbrick, dry goods, the others have gone out of business, departed for other fields, or have passed to the great beyond.

The city at the present time (1916) has a population of 2,240. It contains a magnificent waterpower, derived from the Redwood river and falls. This is being only partially utilized for operating the flour mills and electric light and water plants. Several surrounding towns are being supplied with light and heat from its local electric light plant.

Redwood Falls aside from its scenic beauty and waterpower facilities, is noted for its substantial business buildings, clean, well-kept streets, its many blocks of cement sidewalks and fine water and sewerage system. The water furnished the city is taken from natural living springs, that come to the surface along the banks of the Redwood, within the cities' limits, and is much praised for its purity and fine medicinal qualities. The city has excellent telephone and electric light twenty-four-hour-service. It has a large grade school and a splendid high school requiring the employment of a corps of some twenty or more teachers, which provide excellent educational advantages for this and surrounding community. It has six thriving churches, a Carnegie library, fine court house and jail, an up-to-date creamery, a tile factory, flouring mill, a machine shop and several garages. It has two wide-awake newspapers, three strong, finely equipped and well managed banks, good hotels, and stores in all lines worthy of a city four times its size.

It also has a large and splendidly equipped stockyard, where stock of all kinds are bought and sold.

It is the home of Company L, Second Regiment, Minnesota National Guard, a company composed of some sixty or more of its best young men, and in which the city takes a great pride. A large armory has recently been built for their accommodation.

The building of a central heating plant has recently been started, and when completed will, no doubt, prove a valuable acquisition to the city's business interests.

The Ramsey State Park, which is located within the city's limits, is one of the latest natural attractions. This beautiful spot of nature is being improved and made more beautiful each year, and when completed is destined to become one of the greatest pleasure resorts and beauty spots in the state of Minnesota. All of which combine to make Redwood Falls one of the most attractive little cities in the state.



## CHAPTER XLIV.

**REDWOOD FALLS CEMETERY.**

The care of the remains of those who were first to pass away has always been an enigmatical proposition in the early history of all communities. Organized cemetery associations are frequently the last community movements. Burial places, consequently, from the start, are isolated. In fact, the first settler, the first group of travelers, have placed the remains of those who have suddenly passed away, where, in a few years, the marking and spot would be forgotten and lost.

Redwood Falls was no exception to this rule. Graves were scattered over what is now the city, but in its embryonic state, a mere gathering of a few settlers. Now and then reports of the disinterment of bones occur and an old resident recalls a burial at the particular spot. This will continue as the years roll by, and it is to be regretted that the remains of such distinguished old settlers as O. C. Martin and Birney Flynn cannot be placed in the present magnificent cemetery. But it was the wish of the former that his remains be laid to rest on the hillside overlooking the Redwood river, on his own farm, just southwest of Redwood Falls. Mr. Flynn wished his body to rest under a little tree near the Flynn residence, on Fourth street, between Mill and Minnesota. The bodies will remain there until completely forgotten, and then probably, some day, the bones will be disinterred in the excavation for the carrying on of progress of events.

With Redwood Falls proper the early day burials were in the old stockade grounds, at the liberty pole erected on the present court house square, at the Baldwin hotel corner on Bridge and Mill streets, afterwards giving away to the old Redwood House, and in later years known as the Baldwin Hotel. The principal place of burial, however, was on the banks of the ravine or Redwood river, at the confluence of the ravine and the river, just back of the present G. Kuenzli home, on Bridge and Lincoln streets. There were one or more burials on the bank of the river just back of the present W. H. Gold residence on Minnesota street.

It was not until July of 1873, ten years or more after the founding of the town that Edward March purchased from Pomeroy Angel, and had surveyed ten acres in section 31, town 113, range 35, the present cemetery site. David Watson, a name still familiarly known to early settlers, platted or surveyed the tract. The first burial to be made in this cemetery was Julia Ann Longbottom, and her sister, Jane Longbottom, this occurring in June of 1874. The next burial was that of Mrs. David Alexander, and

the next was that of the body of Eugene Thorpe, a soldier boy, who, at the age of nineteen, and in 1868, was drowned in the Redwood river, his remains being removed from their original resting place in the village proper to the soldier plot donated by William P. Dunnington in the new cemetery.

Among the early settlers, who had passed away, and whose remains were transferred from the village places to the new cemetery, were those of Mrs. Ellen Penney, William Beard, Beverly Brown, the Clark baby, Frederick Thurston, Bela Haliday, Rev. Charles F. Wright, Albert Werder, — Simmons, Dr. B. Bruce, C. C. Belt, Amasa Daniels, the Herriott baby, the two Fisk sisters and Valentine Apfel. The remains of the two Fisk sisters were first laid to rest in the old stockade, while the remains of Valentine Apfel were laid to rest on the brow of a small hill just south of the present cemetery. He was the father of Mrs. Roset Schmahl, mother of the Schmahl children, residing in Redwood Falls, and other points in this state, and he passed away at the ripe old age of 90 years.

Among the children who passed away in the early days and whose remains were transferred to the new and present plot, were Baby Powell, Price Hollen, Coulter Wiggins and Minnie C. Jones.

On September 24, 1883, William P. Dunnington and Fred L. Warner purchased the remaining ground of the cemetery from Edward March and Catharine March, his wife, reserving lot 4, section 10, subdivision two for themselves. On September 27, 1884, Fred L. Warner sold his interests to Mr. Dunnington, and on May 25, 1899, Mr. Dunnington disposed of his interests to George L. Evans and Fred L. Warner, a few months later Mr. Warner closing out his interests to Emil Kuenzli, and the new owners were Kuenzli & Evans.

On March 15, 1910, there was a gathering of a number of public spirited ladies of Redwood Falls and surrounding country at the G. A. R. hall, and after going over the poor condition of the cemetery, it was decided to organize a society to be known as the Redwood Falls Cemetery Association. At this meeting Mrs. R. E. Fuller was chosen chairman and Mrs. Julia Glasco as secretary. A committee was appointed to draw up by-laws, and on March 26, 1910, they met at the home of Mrs. Cunningham, seven members being present. At this meeting Mrs. Phebe M. Fuller was elected president of the association, Mrs. Pearl Golden, first vice president; Mrs. Ella V. Philbrick, second vice president; Mrs. Shella Lutz, recording secretary; Mrs. Lela Pease, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Ida Fedderly, treasurer.

On May 15, 1910, the association purchased of Mary Shaver a tract of land,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  acres, directly west of the old site, and bringing all of the property down to the road leading to North Red-

wood. On May 28, 1910, the members met at the G. A. R. hall, where the articles of incorporation were adopted and signed, and ordered recorded with the secretary of state of the register of deeds of Redwood county. Nine trustees, Phebe M. Fuller, Alice F. King, Ella V. Philbrick, Shella Lutz, Pearl Golden, Alice Angell, Lelah Pease, Ida Fedderly and Nelina McLain, were elected on this occasion, and the acknowledgment to the articles was then taken by James B. Robinson, who has since passed away. Mrs. Fuller was re-elected president, while Mrs. Alice Angell was elected recording secretary, Lelah Pease, actuary, and Ida Fedderly, treasurer.

March 28, 1911, the association purchased of Kuenzli & Luscher their remaining interest in the original tract, paying \$1,200 for the same, and in addition assuming a mortgage for a small amount. The money for this purpose was raised by popular subscription of the lot owners, donations, etc., among the larger donors being J. Fletcher Skinner, of Chicago, formerly of Redwood Falls; Mrs. Mary Shaver, of Seattle, Wash.; Anton C. Weiss, of Duluth, all former residents; W. H. Gold, J. P. Cooper, Julius A. Schmahl, Frank Clague and the Woman's Club of Redwood Falls.

Such was the foundation of the organization of ladies that has been the cause of transforming the grounds from a state of neglect and almost disgrace to the present beautiful condition. That these ladies are to be congratulated and thanked by every person having a regard for a proper care of the dead, is certain. All the money that was received was used in paying for the old and the new grounds, and for the improvement of the property. Since the ladies have taken the ownership a caretaker has been continually employed, a fine iron fence has been erected around the new tract, and granite gate-posts have likewise been added to the improvements. A granite monument to the memory of the Civil War veterans, buried in the plot, has been erected by the ladies of the Relief Corps. Since the corporation was formed Mrs. Golden has passed away and Mrs. Anna E. Ward elected to the vacancy, while Mrs. Angell has moved to California and Mrs. Mary Flinn elected in her stead. Mrs. Philbrick passed away in May of 1916, and Mrs. Alice F. King succeeded her as vice president, Mrs. H. M. Hitchcock being elected to fill the vacancy on the board of trustees. At the time of preparing this article the officers are: Mrs. Phebe M. Fuller, president; Mrs. Alice King, vice president; Mrs. Anna Ward, secretary; Mrs. Lelah Pease, actuary; Ida Fedderly, treasurer; and trustees, in addition to the officers just named, Mesdames Nelina McLain, Inez Luscher and H. M. Hitchcock.

**Authority.** This article has been prepared by Julius A. Schmahl, secretary of state, from notes gathered by Mrs. Phebe

M. Fuller. Mrs. Fuller has consulted the records of the association, with which association she has been intimately connected, and the records of the cemetery. She has also made a careful survey of the old tombstones, and has consulted with many of the old settlers.

## CHAPTER XLV.

### MILITIA COMPANY.

(Edited by Dr. J. W. Inglis.)

Company L, Second Regiment, M. N. G., is on the Texas border at the time of the writing of this article, captained by its organizer, Capt. M. W. Hingeley.

In the spring of 1908, Captain Hingeley, then a bank cashier in Redwood Falls, did some strenuous work, first enthusing the citizens, then interesting the young men, and finally securing the necessary concessions from the city council.

As the result of efforts of the citizens of Redwood Falls, and other cities, three new companies were mustered into the state service, for the Second Regiment, which at that time had its headquarters at Austin, with Col. A. W. Wright commanding. These companies were "K," "L" and "M." Company L was the Redwood Falls company. It was mustered in on October 5, 1908, with the following officers: Captain, M. W. Hingeley (a regular army veteran of the Philippine service, during the Spanish-American War); first lieutenant, Rev. C. S. Mork (rector of the Episcopal church); second lieutenant, A. C. Dolliff (then, as now, a leading attorney of Redwood Falls). The company under this captain and these lieutenants did excellent work during the summer, but during the winter interest decreased owing to the absence of a drill hall, and at many times the company seemed on the verge of being mustered out of service.

Capt. Hingeley resigned to take up banking at Floodwood, Minn. Dr. J. W. Inglis was elected captain in January, 1900. It was while he was captain that the legislature passed the Armory appropriation of \$10,000. This appropriation was later increased by \$5,000. Company L was the first in the state to receive the appropriation. The citizens of Redwood Falls conceived the idea that with an additional amount an armory and theater combined, could be erected, so about \$4,500 was raised by subscription. The armory was completed while Charles Galles was captain, in 1914, at a cost of \$25,000, and the building is now free from debt. Originally the site west of the jail was purchased and deeded to Company L. It was found, however, that Company L had no

existence as a corporation and subsequently the present site was secured. The site west of the jail will doubtless always remain public property, as technically the title probably rests in each individual member of the company at the time it was purchased. Captain Galles resigned while the company was on duty at Fort Snelling, in the summer of 1916, awaiting the call to the Mexican boundary, and the original captain, M. W. Hingeley was appointed in his place. First Lieutenant Mork was succeeded in turn by Clarence March, Theo. G. Olson, Chas. Galles and W. B. Clement. Second Lieutenant A. C. Dolliff was succeeded in turn by Frank Theiring, Charles Galles and John Lauterbach.

While at Ft. Snelling awaiting its call to the Mexican service, the company was constituted as follows: Captain, Myron W. Hingeley; first lieutenant, W. B. Clement; second lieutenant, J. W. Lauterbach; first sergeant, Archie Horr; quartermaster sergeant, George Gaedy; sergeant, Oliver E. Steele; sergeant, William Peavy; sergeant, Glenn Gold; sergeant, William Evans; sergeant, E. L. Gallea; cook, Leroy Ewer; corporals: E. H. Bollum, John Mason, Harre L. Starr, William Carity, B. W. Rice, Art. Frank Baldwin, H. L. Jordan, Frank Welch, H. F. Warner, C. A. Lauterbach; privates: Julian Stensvad, Floyd Jones, W. C. Morgan, Milo Jones, Harry Flathers, John Mowry, Walter E. King, Harry Dickson, John Sexton, Loyd Bobsin, Otto Voltz, Irl H. Starr, William Neal, Sewell Battin, Knute Nielsen, Earl Hansen, Robert Fuller, Robert Johnson, Burr Bateman, Charlie Okins, E. C. Ahrens, Willard Simpson, Roy Kuck, Ira Rogers, Jacob McIntyre, Bert Marsh, Fred Okens, Joe Wicks, Fay Parish, Claude Smith, Gideon Dashmer, Chauncy Welch, S. T. Edwards, George Thayer, Russell Bunch, Fred Ahrens, Leroy McPhee, Ben Everett, Luvern Schmidt, Frank Hammer, Harold Gray, Howard Hall, William Arnett, Roy Erickson, Connie Ackman, Albert Howard, Maurice Jones, C. G. Biggers, Vern Shoemaker, Bill Flathers. Since then the following changes have been made: Kuck, Chauncy Welch, Vern Shoemaker, sergeants; E. H. Bollum and Frank Baldwin, corporals; Ben Everett and W. C. Morgan. Glenn Gold is now regimental adjutant. The following have been released from service: C. A. Lauterbach, Henry Dickson, Harre L. Starr, George Thayer, Lloyd Bobsin, William Neal, Howard Hall, E. C. Ahrens. A number of recruits have been added.

1951









